

# Tories press for action now over poll tax

## Community charge 'a political cyanide pill'

By Robin Oakley and Philip Webster

The Cabinet is coming under intense pressure from Conservative MPs to recast the poll tax to head off growing alarm in the country and party.

Senior loyalist figures yesterday joined the chorus calling for far-reaching changes, and the back-bench 1922 Committee was told the tax was proving a political cyanide pill for the party.

The ultra-loyalist Mr Tony Marlow said there was a risk the Conservatives would be seen as "declaring war on the people" and that the electorate would take revenge.

But the alarm in party ranks, particularly in the wake of the resignation of the Conservative whip by 18 West Oxfordshire councillors, has

produced no sign of concessions from Mrs Thatcher and her ministers.

Mr Kenneth Baker, the party chairman, yesterday spoke to every constituency chairman and agent, urging them to "sell" Tory policies in general and the community charge in particular.

Conservative MPs who fear the new tax could lose them the next election, are calling for education, fire and police service spending to be taken over by central government.

Others want an indication of a

Millions of people face poll tax bills hundreds of pounds above what they used to pay in rates, according to a survey by *The Times* of metropolitan and London councils, published today. The nationwide analysis shows that town halls will approve poll tax figures next week way above government estimates calculated on an assumed inflation rate of 4 per cent. Details, page 6

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much more generous grant next year and criticized the Government for allowing only 4 per cent for inflation, in assessing the latest settlement.

When Mr Patrick Cormack pointed out that 70 Tory MPs had signed a Commons motion calling for education expenditure to be financed by central government, Mrs Thatcher appeared to soften her stance by saying it would not be a good thing for the "administration" of education to be done centrally. Some MPs saw that as a sign that she might at least take teachers' pay off local tax bills.

But a senior minister said later such a move was not being contemplated, and dismissed any idea of shifting expenditure on the police and fire services to central government as mere "creative accounting".

Ian Gow, a former parliamentary private secretary to the Prime Minister, said the Government had underestimated the concern within the party. "We will have to review the operation of the charge and we ought to start that review as soon as we

Starting next week: *The Times* Tournament of the Mind, offering the chance to win £5,000 and a computer. The tournament, devised and marked by Mensa, will be played over 20 rounds. Each entrant will receive a certificate

As a sample, try this: A train a quarter of a mile long, travelling at 45mph, enters a tunnel which is exactly half a mile long. How long will it take for the train to pass through the tunnel? (That is, from when the front of the engine enters the tunnel to when the rear of the last carriage leaves it). The answer, if you need it, is on page 20

The largest tract of virgin rainforest is not in South America. It is in Cameroon, west Africa, and it is the scene for a conservation project that could provide a blueprint for Earth's future. See page 12

There was one winner of yesterday's £6,000 Portfolio Platinum prize. Today's chance to win £2,000 is on page 33

Tomorrow: the latest trends in unit trusts are highlighted in a special four-page report

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# A toast to England's sparkling success



Time to celebrate: Allan Lamb, England's vice-captain who was named Man of the Match, drinks to a spectacular victory.

Test win ends a 16-year drought

From Alan Lee  
Cricket Correspondent  
Kingston, Jamaica

England achieved a remarkable Test victory in Kingston, Jamaica, yesterday, their first against the West Indies since 1974.

After dominating the first three days of this opening Test of a five-match series, England had fended off frustration as the fourth day was lost to bad weather. But their nine-wicket win, equaling their biggest ever against the West Indies, was completed just before lunch on the final day.

Widely dismissed as a team without hope, following a recent record of only one win

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in 25 Tests, England's triumph left the beaten captain, Viv Richards, saying: "We needed a kick up the backside and that is what we have got."

Allan Lamb was named Man of the Match for his innings of 132, but the popular hero of a finish watched by hundreds of British tourists was the captain, Graham Gooch, relishing his first win in 20 Tests against this opposition. "I have waited a long time for this and it is a very sweet moment," he said.

British bookmakers cut the odds against England winning the series from 40-1 to 3-1. The series resumes in Georgetown, Guyana on March 10.

# Briton among 16 dead in Cairo hotel blaze

By Our Foreign Staff

At least 16 people, including a British woman, died yesterday when fire swept through a luxury Cairo hotel. Three British journalists are missing. Up to 70 people were reported

injured in the blaze, which was fanned by high winds, and took nine hours to put out.

Guests at the Heliopolis Sheraton Hotel, some clutching babies, jumped from upper floors of the six-storey hotel, and others pushed their children out of windows and jumped after them.

The three missing journalists, who were in a party of 23 British fashion writers staying at the hotel, were last night named as Janet Parker, editor of the trade journal *Cosmetics International*, Sally Tait-Gilder, writing for the magazine *Expressions*, and Jackie Moore, a freelance writer.

Mr Sultan said about 1,000 guests, occupying about 70 per cent of the rooms, and about 300 Egyptian employees, were

in the hotel at the time. The search for more bodies was going on last night.

The British journalists flew to Cairo on Wednesday for a five-day trip for the launch of a new perfume, Neptys. MW Publicity, which organized the trip, said last night: "We cannot get any details about the missing three. All the survivors want to come home." They will return to Heathrow today.

Marion Hume of *The Sunday Times*, one of the fashion writers staying in the hotel, said nobody she spoke to had reported hearing a fire alarm. "Neither had anyone I spoke to seen sprinkler systems in operation and fire engines took about an hour to arrive.

"I was woken when a fellow journalist who ... banged on

Continued on page 22, col 6

# No prosecutions in Harrods case

By Our City Staff

The Director of Public Prosecutions has decided there are to be no prosecutions over the takeover of the House of Fraser stores group in 1985.

Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, said in a parliamentary written answer that he will release a report on the takeover next Wednesday.

It centres on whether Mr Mohamed Al Fayed and his advisers misled the Office of Fair Trading.

House of Fraser, which

owns Harrods, was taken over by the Egyptian Fayed brothers for £15 million after a takeover battle with trading company Lourho.

The 750-page report was submitted to the DTT in July 1988. The Government delayed publishing it while the Serious Fraud Office investigated the case.

Mr Tiny Rowland, Lourho's chief executive, campaigned vigorously to have the report published.

Ruling details, page 23

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# Prescription charges up to £3.05 in April

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

The Government came under heavy attack last night as it announced that prescription charges would rise by 8.9 per cent from April, an increase higher than inflation.

The 25p rise, which takes the cost of a prescription up to £3.05, will bring in £13 million for the National Health Service, Mrs Virginia Bottomley, Minister for Health, said.

The rise, higher than predicted, means that charges have risen more than 15-fold since the Conservatives took office in 1979, when one item cost 20p. The increase came despite evidence from the

# Sterling hit by money supply gloom

By Our Economics Staff

Institute of Fiscal Studies claiming that the sharp rises had led to a 40 per cent fall in the number of prescriptions.

Last night the move was bitterly condemned by Opposition MPs, health service unions and the medical profession, who claimed the charges presented a "tax on illness" and would price medicines out of the reach of many families.

Season ticket prescriptions, for people who need medicines on a regular basis will rise from £14.50 to £15.80 for a four-month period, and from £40 to £43.50 for a year.

Details, page 23

# Muslim source claims US-Iran hostage talks

By Andrew McEwen and a Correspondent in Beirut

A Muslim fundamentalist source in west Beirut claimed yesterday that US-Iranian talks held last autumn went much further than previously admitted towards a hostage deal.

The claim followed a spate of reports of renewed US-Iranian hostage negotiations emanating from pro-Iranian sources. It is believed that the sources are trying to bring about a further effort to repair Iran's links with the West. Previous efforts have been blocked by hardline elements in Tehran.

But President Bush strongly

Continued on page 22, col 2

# Royal smile and sympathy cheers flood victims

By Ronald Faux

The Prince and Princess of Wales brought laughter and sympathy yesterday to victims of the Towy floods in North Wales when they visited Bodelwyddan Castle, an emergency centre where families forced from their homes have been given shelter.

The Prince interrupted his skiing holiday in Klosters to pay a St David's Day visit to the coastal towns devastated when storms burst through the wall on Monday. "That's very smart," he told Mr Peter McBride, aged 24, whose home, possessions and stock for his business lie under water. Mr McBride was fitted out free of charge by a chainstore. "It was quite a laugh. I was dressed in this smart casual gear and he

noticed. He seemed genuinely sorry and sympathetic," Mr McBride said.

The Prince and Princess spent an hour in the hall at the castle where hundreds of families are sheltered. They saw the large piles of clothing, bedding and

mattresses that have been delivered in answer to an appeal. About £40,000 has been donated to the disaster fund.

Mrs Winnie Hurst, aged 74, had taken up residence in one corner of the hall with her son, Derek, who suffers from arthritis, daughter-in-law Pamela and two dogs. The Princess sat on a mattress on the floor to hear their story of how the flood swept into their bungalow home in Towy. "I've not been back yet. They tell



The Princess visiting Towy flood victims yesterday.

## NEWS ROUNDUP

## Video may have filmed bomber

Police believe that at least one member of the IRA gang which nearly killed two people in a Leicester car-bombing may have been filmed by a shop security video-camera, positioned in an electrical shop opposite the city centre car park where terrorists are believed to have planted the bomb under an Army van.

Police, who have appealed to anybody who was in Yeoman Street on February 20 to contact them, have been drawing up descriptions of the 2,000 people filmed by the video-camera. By matching the descriptions with individuals who respond to their appeal, they hope to end up with an image on the film which might prove to be a prime suspect.

Detectives yesterday issued a second artist's impression of a man they said they wanted to eliminate from their inquiries. He was seen standing at the entrance of a bookmaker's shop near the car park and was described as being aged 25 to 35, 6ft tall and slim-built with short blond hair. He was wearing a black leather jacket.

## Postal lifeline search

Striking postal workers in London have agreed to search through mail for blood samples that could save the life of a child leukaemia victim. Their unofficial stoppage coincided with the sending of 450 samples for testing to a London centre to try to find a bone marrow donor whose genetic make-up matched that of Simon Flavell, aged nine, of Southampton. If not found in time, the samples may be useless, but it is expected they will be delivered tomorrow.

A telephone helpline set up to find a donor brought more than 1,300 responses from people throughout the world.

## Agreement upheld

A three-year bid by Mr Michael McGimpsey and his brother Christopher, both Ulster Unionists, to get the Anglo-Irish Northern Ireland Agreement declared unconstitutional in the Irish Republic failed yesterday. Five judges at Dublin's Supreme Court, the country's ultimate legal authority, unanimously rejected claims that the accord ran counter to articles in Ireland's written constitution. They upheld an Irish High Court ruling on the issue.

## Peer's farm checked

The National Rivers Authority is investigating samples from a farm owned by Lord St Levan after being alerted by the environmental group, Friends of the Earth. Field officer, Mr Jonathan Rorke, took the samples from a ditch at Trevarthian Farm, at St Michael's Mount in Cornwall as the first of series of visits the group intends to make to agricultural land across the country.

## MP to stand down

Mr Robert Rhodes James, the Conservative MP for Cambridge, announced last night that he would be standing down at the next general election (Richard Ford writes). Mr Rhodes James, who has held the seat since 1976, had a majority of 5,060 at the last election. Mr Rhodes James admitted disappointment at not holding office under Mrs Thatcher but he accepted that being "a dedicated One Nation Conservative" was presently unfashionable.

## Irradiation 'could halve food poisoning'

By Michael Hornsby  
Agriculture Correspondent

The number of food poisoning cases in Britain could be halved if all poultry meat was irradiated, a leading food scientist told an international conference in London yesterday.

Professor Bevan Moseley, head of the Institute of Food Research at Reading, said, however, that it could be another 10 years or more before irradiation was accepted by the general public.

Evidence suggested that between 50 and 60 per cent of all food poisoning cases were related to poultry, and that 60 per cent of all poultry carcasses were infected with

either salmonella or campylobacter. "If irradiation was introduced for poultry and a significant part of the population ate irradiated chicken, there would be a significant reduction in the number of cases of food poisoning. In theory, if everyone ate irradiated chicken, we could reduce food poisoning by about 50 per cent," Professor Moseley said.

Although most people now understand the need to cook poultry thoroughly to kill bacteria, there was still the danger of cross-infection, when, for example, the same knife or wooden board was used to cut up raw chicken and other foodstuffs.

More than 60,000 people became ill after eating contaminated food

last year, according to the Public Health Laboratory Service. Almost all these poisonings were caused by salmonella and campylobacter. Campylobacter is rarely fatal, but in 1988 about 50 people died from salmonella poisoning.

expected to legalize the process this year. The Food Safety Bill, introduced in Parliament last November, gives Mr John Gummer, the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, the power to do so.

"It would be nice if poultry farming could be cleaned up and salmonella could be eradicated at source, but we have to recognise that this is unlikely to happen and that food irradiation is a way of getting rid of certain important pathogens," Professor Moseley said.

Poultry, herbs and spices and certain kinds of shellfish were probably the foodstuffs where irradiation treatment offered the clearest public health gains.

Prolonging the shelf-life of strawberries and vegetables was unlikely to appeal to the big supermarkets chains, which pride themselves on the freshness of their produce.

ASDA, Tesco, Waitrose and Marks & Spencer are among the supermarkets which have said they would not stock irradiated food because of consumer opposition.

The British Medical Association and leading consumer groups say that there are still too many unanswered questions about the effects of irradiation on food. They are also concerned that the technology could be used to "clean up" foodstuffs that would otherwise be considered unfit.

## Engineering unions name new targets in strike campaign

By Tim Jones, Employment Affairs Correspondent

Union leaders campaigning for a 37-hour week in the engineering industry announced yesterday that two more large companies are to be targeted for indefinite strikes.

The leaders said that other companies could either reach agreement or face damaging and costly conflict.

Next week, the unions will name a further 50 companies on their list, involving tens of thousands of workers.

From Monday, staff at 11 plants in the Lucas Group's engineering and automotive division, and workers at Weir Pumps at Cathcart, Alloa and Manchester, will be consulted and ballots on action may begin later this month.

The intensifying of the campaign comes as Airbus Industries is preparing to demand at least £70 million in compensation from British Aerospace for losses to the consortium's Airbus programme as a result of the 18-week strike by more than 7,000 BAe workers.

Today, workers at the BAe

plants at Preston and Chester are likely to accept a deal that includes a two-hour reduction in the working week to 37 hours.

After the decision earlier this week by the Rover Group to introduce a 37-hour week for its 30,000 manual employees, leaders of the 13 unions in the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions (CSEU) are convinced that their campaign has gathered an unstoppable momentum.

Their euphoria is challenged by the Engineering Employers' Federation, which said that, since the beginning of the campaign, there had been 50 settlements involving 17,000 employees who had achieved a shorter working week, ranging from 37 to 38.5 hours, but 652 agreements covering 110,000 workers where no deal had been struck.

Yesterday, Mr Bill Jordan,

president of the Amalgamated Engineering Union, said: "Recent events have shown that the campaign is now under

way with a vengeance. The CSEU is prepared to co-operate with the introduction of the shorter working week and maintain the productivity levels we want to see in British industry."

"Companies can either sit back and invite conflict or talk with shop stewards and do a deal immediately beneficial to both sides."

He added: "The 37-hour week has become the norm in engineering, and engineering companies all over the UK ought to understand this."

Mr Alex Ferry, general secretary of the CSEU, said that workers at a further 120 plants had invited the executive of the CSEU to authorize balloting on industrial action. This gave an indication of the strength and impetus of the campaign.

• Union leaders representing 78,000 manual workers in the electricity industry last night rejected an 8 per cent pay offer. The Electricity Council will reply to the union side next month.

## Long road to the Continent



The driver of one of a stalled stream of heavy lorries dozing in his cab at the Dover end of the A2 yesterday. The delay in getting on his way has been caused by the recent bad weather, which has disrupted ferry sailings as well as damaging two berths at the Kent port.

## Terrorist suspects given interrogation safeguard

By Quentin Cowdry, Home Affairs Correspondent

Experimental safeguards for terrorist suspects held by police were announced yesterday by the Government, whose Prevention of Terrorism Act has been strongly criticized at home and abroad for giving police excessive powers.

Police in London and Liverpool will tape-record summaries of notes from interviews with terrorist suspects who, in turn, will have a right to record comments about how they felt their interviews were conducted.

The tapes, to include verbatim records of admissions, denials and damaging statements, will be specially sealed on completion and will be available to prosecution and defence if a case goes to trial.

Mr David Waddington, the Home Secretary, announced the two-year experiment in a Commons written answer. It will be monitored by a steering committee representing the police, the Crown Prosecution Service, the Law Society and the Criminal Bar Association.

The Metropolitan and Merseyside forces dealt with 337 of the 538 terrorist suspects detained in mainland Britain between 1986 and 1989.

They could also present electronically generated evidence in court collected during an attempted "assault" rather than after it has occurred. Miss Emma Nicholson, Conservative MP for Devon West and Torridge, has tabled the amendments.

• The legislation as first proposed would leave police reliant on telephone companies to trace computer hackers breaking in on outside lines.

They would also be limited to "after-the-event" evidence being the only documentation admissible in court.

Miss Nicholson, a former computer consultant and author of a preliminary hacking Bill, is proposing linking computer crime with the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 and the Interception of Communications Act 1985.

It would make computer crime, claimed to be costing Britain £2 billion a year, both a serious arrestable offence under the 1984 Act and a serious crime.

That would give officers the powers needed to bring successful prosecutions, Miss Nicholson said.

## Electronic monitoring link to cerebral palsy in babies

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

Electronic monitoring of the heart rate of premature babies during labour has been linked to a higher risk of cerebral palsy in the infants.

Researchers reporting the findings of a six-year study in the *New England Journal of Medicine* yesterday said the monitors did not improve chances of survival or normal neurological development.

The findings do not suggest that the monitors, connected by wires through the mother's cervix and attached to the baby's scalp, cause brain damage. But the researchers suspect that they either fail to detect some problems in the baby or could create "an overly reassuring atmosphere" in the labour room.

They add weight to studies showing no benefit from electronic foetal monitoring when compared with careful use of the stethoscope. However, the link with cerebral palsy was a "complete surprise", the American doctor who led the study said yesterday.

The researchers found almost three times as many cases of cerebral palsy among infants monitored electronically as among a comparable

group of infants whose heart rates were monitored by stethoscope. Professor Norman Morris, emeritus professor of obstetrics and gynaecology at London University, said last night: "There is no evidence at all that the monitors in any way cause brain damage."

• Women who have their first baby after the age of 35 are at slightly higher risk of breast cancer than non-mothers, researchers say in the *British Medical Journal*.

Dr Kirkwood Shy, an obstetrician at the University of Washington, in Seattle, who led the study, said the continuous flow of data from a monitor "could create an overly reassuring atmosphere in the labour room". But she cautioned against wholesale changes in the monitoring.

The study involved 189 premature babies weighing less than 4lb. The devices were used to monitor 93 babies and stethoscopes for 96.

Death rates in the two groups were comparable and 173 of the surviving infants were examined at the age of 18 months. Cerebral palsy was diagnosed in 20 per cent of the 82 electronically monitored infants, compared with 8 per cent of the 91 checked with a

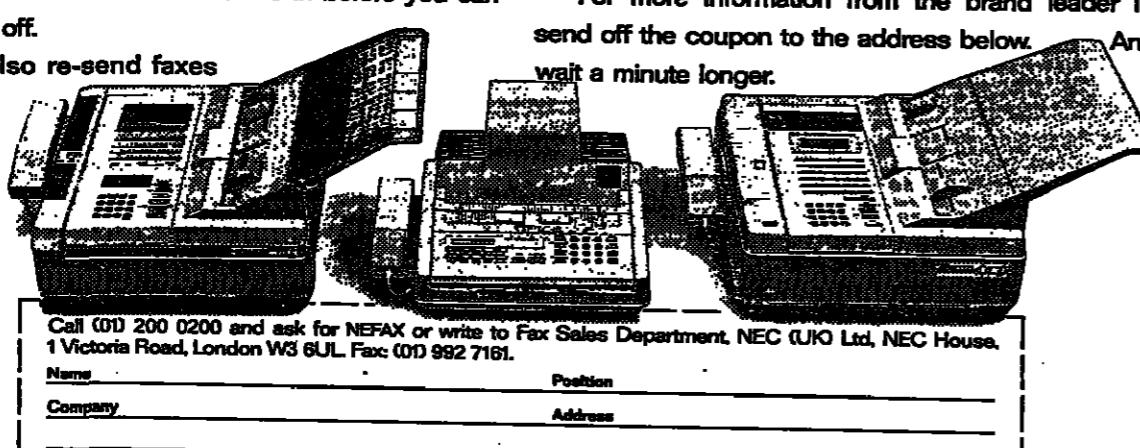
## CORRECTIONS

The headline on yesterday's report of a General Medical Council hearing stated that a "transplant team" knew of the sale of kidneys. No such accusation was made against Mr Michael Joyce, a member of the team, who has admitted all but one of the facts alleged in his case but denies professional misconduct.

The chairman of the National Art Collections Fund is Sir Nicholas Goodison, not Sir Peter Wakefield as stated in our report on "The Three Graces" (February 26). Sir Peter is director of the fund.

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## Cash threat to quality

# Rees-Mogg predicts TV pornography in battle for ratings

By Richard Evans, Media Editor

Violent and soft pornographic programmes were likely to appear increasingly on mainstream British television over the next five years. Lord Rees-Mogg, chairman of the Broadcasting Standards Council, said yesterday.

A ratings war, a plunge in advertising revenue caused by an economic recession and a general shortage of cash for quality programmes threatened to contribute to the downward spiral in standards, he said.

The danger, seeing it from the Broadcasting Standards Council, is not just that standards will slip.

"There will be a danger that the average, pretty tedious but pretty violent programme that can be bought in easily and cheaply will appear in increasing numbers because violence is not a bad way of getting up ratings when you cannot think of anything else to do."

"It is also obviously a chance that there will be an increasing resort to soft porn, although I think hard porn is never likely to become part of the mainstream television culture of this country."

"There are dangers in this area, where we have to assume the regulatory authorities will be concerned."

"I believe standards are not indivisible. One cannot usefully talk about broadcasting standards as though the question of how many nipples are shown in a given week is the determining factor."

"They may have a certain technical interest to the Broadcasting Standards Council, but they are not the way to judge whether standards are going up or down."

"The standards of British broadcasting have been created by spending a good deal of money and allowing broadcasters freedom to make pro-

grammes on the basis of adequate funding. If the adequate funding ceases to be there, those programmes will not be made, cannot be made and this is through no fault of the people who control the broadcasting system."

Lord Rees-Mogg's message will set alarm bells ringing in Downing Street, especially as he was appointed by Mrs Margaret Thatcher to head the broadcasting standards watchdog and stop the very thing he is predicting will happen.

Given his background as a respected City journalist and former editor of *The Times*, his confident prediction that

The BBC is to go ahead with plans for a world television news service, Mr Michael Checkland, Director General, said yesterday (Richard Evans writes). Three half-hour bulletins a day will be beamed to subscribing broadcasters. A starting date will be announced within months. He said: "It is inconceivable we will continue with world service only in radio as we move towards another century."

Britain faces a recession in the next few years is unlikely to endear himself to the Prime Minister.

Lord Rees-Mogg, who was the guest speaker at the *Financial Times* Cable and Satellite conference in London, said that if the financing of television went wrong, the product would suffer. He viewed the financial outlook for television over the next five years "with considerable concern."

His main fears concern independent television or Channel 3, as it will be known, from 1993, and the battle for satellite television between Sky and British Satellite Broadcasting. The Govern-

ment's auction for Channel 3 franchises would result in a shortage of funds for high-quality programming.

"It is clear we are not going to get the sort of lavish spending on television from contractors that we might have otherwise had for."

The capping of the BBC licence fee, the auctioning of the commercial television licences and the satellite battle gave cause for concern over funding.

Government restrictions are discouraging and even preventing the BBC from the commercial exploitation of its skills and resources, Mr Michael Checkland, the corporation's director general, said yesterday.

In a remarkable onslaught against the restrictions imposed by an array of ministers and departments, he has pointed up an anomalous attitude to the BBC on the part of Whitehall, which avows a broadcasting policy of encouraging competition, choice and market forces.

Mr Checkland's main concern is the Government's plan to end the listings monopoly of the *Radio Times* and *TV Times*.

"Is it fair competition to force broadcasters to provide the details of their programme schedules, of which it is agreed they have the copyright, at a price set by the buyer in the absence of agreement and until such time as the Copyright Tribunal adjudicates, months or years later?"

"This is the market philosophy turned on its head," Mr Checkland said.

Mr Richard Dunn, chairman of the ITV Association, said Channel 4 would die and the proposed Channel 5 stillborn if the BBC was forced by the Government to take advertising after 1996.

## St David's Day daffodil for the Queen

ADRIAN BROOKS



A smile from the Queen as she receives daffodils from well-wishers during a walkabout on a St David's Day visit yesterday to Welsh guardsmen, service families and retired officers at Pirbright Camp, Surrey.

## Portfolio Holiday in Italy for winner

The winner of yesterday's £6,000 Portfolio Platinum prize was Mr Ronald Cripps, aged 66, from Sunderland, Tyne and Wear.

Until Mr Cripps retired from his job as an industrial civil servant last year, his wife Kay, aged 68, was responsible for checking the numbers. "Ronald used to say I wasn't trying hard enough," she joked. "This is the latest in a string of successes for him, including £28 on the football pools."

Mr Cripps intends to share part of his good fortune with the family, before tackling home improvements. "My son has just moved from Surrey to Inverness, so a cheque to him won't come amiss," he said. "We've also contemplated holiday destinations and I think the Italian lakes is favourite."

## Mother of attic boy convicted

A mother who regularly locked her son aged 11 in a dark and filthy attic was convicted yesterday of neglect and assault.

The woman had denied both charges but was found guilty by Mr Geoffrey Kamil, a stipendiary magistrate. He said the boy had given surprisingly clear evidence in a distressing case.

Mr Kamil will sentence the mother, aged 29, next Friday after hearing social reports.

The boy told Wolverhampton Magistrates' Court he had never been given a Christmas or birthday present and spent most of his time lying on his bed in the attic.

Miss Wendy Bounds, for the prosecution, said the attic was in stark contrast to the smart, clean bedrooms used by the boy's three brothers and sister. The boy was their stepbrother. His face was like a boxer's from being struck, a doctor told the court.

## 'Life not enough for double killer'

A man was sentenced to life imprisonment yesterday for murdering his girlfriend while on weekend leave from jail.

Keith Ward was serving a two-year sentence for unlawfully wounding Mrs Valerie Middleton, aged 30, the woman he killed at her home in Birkenshaw, Bradford, West Yorkshire, after spending the weekend trying to patch up their relationship.

Ward, aged 33, murdered her less than three years after being freed from jail for

the manslaughter of Miss Julie Stead, also a girlfriend he had visited in a reconciliation attempt.

Mr Justice French sentenced Ward to life imprisonment, but did not recommend any minimum time that should be served. Mr Maurice Padgett, Mrs Middleton's father, said he and his wife Marlene were disgusted with the "ridiculous" sentence.

He said he could not remember the killing which happened after she allegedly taunted him about affairs she had been having.

years," Mr Padgett said. "Life doesn't mean life, it means 10 years. He'll be free at 44 to do it again."

The jury at Leeds Crown Court took half an hour to convict Ward. He battered the mother of two to death bludgeoning her seven times on the back of the head as she lay in the bath.

He said he could not remember the killing which happened after she allegedly taunted him about affairs she had been having.

Massive debt. WWF were one of the first to recognise this as the major obstacle stopping third world countries protecting their natural resources.

In response, WWF organised "Debt for Nature Swaps." This is a process by which we buy at a substantial discount, part of the outstanding debt of developing countries like Ecuador, Costa Rica, Zambia and Madagascar, or even arrange to write it off.

In return, the Government of that country agrees to help fund and implement more conservation projects.

We also help in other ways.

By working with 21 Governments and many of the world's Aid Agencies, we've set up ambitious schemes to preserve as much of the world's tropical forests as we can.

Many of these projects help local people manage the forest in new ways that benefit both themselves and the environment.

Already WWF's campaign to save one of Africa's oldest remaining rainforests, in Cameroon, is proving highly successful. The harvesting of food, medicine and the development of new industries are just some of the many projects already underway.

WWF's policy is to work with and influence the people who can bring about positive change, worldwide. Our approach has already proven successful, but we urgently need your support to continue.

You can help WWF by sending in a donation to help rainforests worldwide.



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## Holiday hotel investigation reveals fire safety breaches

By Shona Crawford Poole, Travel Editor

Locked or blocked fire escapes and dangerous open staircases are common in Mediterranean hotels, according to the magazine *Holiday Which?*

In spite of a 12-year safety campaign by the magazine, holidaymakers, it says, are still being sent to hotels which could be death traps if fire broke out. Its latest report coincides with the news of 16 deaths in a Cairo hotel fire.

The magazine's inspector found that only one of 22 hotels checked had adequately protected staircases, and only five had fire escapes that were unobstructed and unobstructed.

The hotels, in Torremolinos, Spain, and on the Greek island of Corfu, are used by such leading package tour operators as Thomson, Jetstar, Horizon, Martin Rucks, Falcon, and Enterprise.

None of the hotels listed was

judged to have the minimum acceptable safety level. "It is not enough that resorts and hotels claim they are complying with 'strict' local regulations," the report said. "Our findings show that either the regulations are inadequate or... are adequate on paper only - they are simply not being enforced."

The group supports the Consumers' Association, publisher of *Holiday Which?* in calling for improvements to fire safety.

The hotels found unsafe by *Holiday Which?* on Corfu were the Agios Gordios, Belvedere, Corfu Chandris, Corfu Palace, Dassia Chandris, Eleni Beach, Messonghi Beach, Paleokastritsa, Potamaki, Regency and Yalissari Palace.

In Torremolinos the hotels Aloha Puerto Sol, Amara, Belpai, Camino Real, Don Pablo, Los Jazmines, Natali, Pex Espadas, Sol las Palomas, Torremolinos Beach Club and Tiburon were named.

The Tour Operators' Study

# Labour by-election battle opens with attack on Thatcher

By Craig Seton

The Labour Party launched its campaign for the crucial Mid-Staffordshire by-election yesterday when Mr Roy Hattersley, the deputy leader, accused Mrs Thatcher of being "arrogant, autocratic and unscrupulous in the pursuit of power".

Mr Hattersley made his scathing personal attack on the Prime Minister at the first of Labour's press conferences in the constituency, where the Conservatives are defending a majority of 14,654. He claimed that the issue in the contest would be "Mrs Margaret Thatcher's poll tax".

Mr Charles Prior, the Conservative candidate, acknowledged yesterday that he faces a close contest but said that he was confident of winning and content for Labour to make the by-election a referendum on Mrs Thatcher and her policies.

The Conservative campaign gets under way on Monday with a visit by Mr Kenneth Baker, party chairman. Polling is on March 22, two days after the Budget.

Mr Hattersley, speaking in support of Mrs Sylvia Heal, the Labour candidate, who needs a 13 per cent swing to capture the seat, said that it was inevitable and right that the campaign would concern Mrs Thatcher's conduct and character, which had caused the Government to blunder

reached record levels because of Margaret Thatcher's interference in economic management, the interference which caused Nigel Lawson's resignation.

However, Mr Prior, the Conservative candidate, an accountant aged 43 who is the nephew of Lord Prior, the former Conservative Cabinet Minister, said that people in the constituency, who face poll tax levels averaging £350, were concerned about how the figures were set by councils.

He blamed Labour-con-

trolled Staffordshire County Council and Cannock District Council for setting poll tax levels that would, in Rugeley, the biggest town in the constituency, force people to pay £46 more than necessary.

Mr Prior, who will be joined by his uncle on the campaign trail today, said that the poll tax principle was fair; people who benefited from services ought to contribute to them.

He denied that he was running scared in what would be a two-horse race with Labour.

However, he acknowledged that the Government would be blamed by many people with mortgages who were paying high interest rates.

Mr Prior said that he would be astonished if the Chancellor of the Exchequer gave a "fiscal stimulus" in the Budget, two days before the by-election.

He said: "I welcome the Budget being before the election. It is important we show the electorate we are a responsible Government which continues to bear down on inflation and that there are no giveaways."

Mr Prior said at his adoption meeting in Rugeley last night that he wanted to fight the campaign on the Government's strong record of achievement. He was convinced he would win.

The poll tax debate, page 6

General Election: J Heddle (C), 28,644; C St Hill (Lab) 13,990; T Jones (L/All) 13,114; J Bazeley (Independent) 836. C Maj: 14,654.

Guinness picked up bill for £180m after titanic takeover struggle, court told



Mr Anthony Parnes and his wife Denise heading for court, where he was said to be a calm, logical and creative man whose contribution to the Guinness bid for Distillers was crucial.

## Stockbroker's idea 'saved firm hundreds of millions'

By Angela Mackay

The stockbroker Anthony Parnes devised a brilliant scheme which saved Guinness hundreds of millions of pounds after the company's £2.7 billion takeover of Distillers in 1986, a jury was told yesterday.

The battle for control of Distillers was a titanic struggle, with Guinness's expenses totalling £182.19 million, Southwark Crown Court was told.

Mr Olivier Roux, Guinness's former finance director, said that one of the most important things Mr Parnes did for Guinness was to create a share repurchase scheme.

"This idea enabled Guinness to arrive at the optimal financial structure post bid and was worth hundreds of millions of pounds to the company,"

Mr Parnes, Ernest Saunders, former chief executive and chairman of Guinness; Gerald Ronson, chairman of Heron International; and Sir Jack Lyons the financier all deny 24 counts of theft, false accounting and breaches of the Companies Act.

Mr Roux said that Mr Parnes gave a better view of the market than any other Guinness adviser. He gave "a very accurate picture of what was happening" and was very efficient at providing feedback and keeping in close touch. Mr Parnes was "calm, logical and creative," he added.

"Personally, apart from a natural affinity I felt, he was a man I could trust completely and we had a lot of fun together," Mr Parnes said.

"Our families enjoyed each other's company and it is very sad that these events have prevented us from being in contact."

Mr Roux agreed with Mr Colin Nicholls, QC, for Mr Parnes that the stockbroker had been paid £350,000 for his role in helping Guinness to take over Bells in 1985. Later, Mr Parnes was paid a £3.3 million success fee for his advice to Guinness in its bid for Distillers.

Mr Roux had no part in negotiating Mr Parnes's fee after the Distillers bid, but said he did not think the £3.3 million fee to be inordinate. "Distillers was a multiple of complexity of the Bells bid," Mr Roux said. "His contribution was crucial. I thought it was money well earned."

Mr Roux said it was not important that Mr Parnes's success fee remain anonymous, but it was vital that his role in the bid should not be widely known so he could obtain objective information from the market.

While Mr Roux said that Mr Parnes had a very small input in building up his knowledge of the Takeover Panel and the code, he noted Mr Parnes certainly had helped him to understand the workings of the City, particularly market tactics in hostile bids.

Mr Nicholls suggested to Mr Parnes that lies he told Department of Industry and Trade inspectors about payments to a company associated with Mr Ephraim Margulies, the chairman of S&W Berisford, were not made to protect Mr Parnes. Mr Margulies had supported Guinness shares during the bid and it was agreed his losses would be covered.

Earlier the court was told

that Mr Parnes feared he was being framed by Mr Margulies who was allegedly saying a company called Cifco, which received £1.9 million from Guinness, belonged to Mr Parnes rather than to Mr Margulies.

Mr Roux met Mr Margulies at Mr Parnes's house after dinner on December 10, 1986, when Mr Margulies apparently confirmed that Cifco was one of his companies. Mr Roux agreed to help with invoices showing that Cifco performed services for Guinness.

Mr Roux rejected Mr Nicholls's suggestion that his motive for not telling the truth in two interviews with DITI

### THE CHARGES

Ernest Saunders, aged 54, of Putney, south-west London, faces two charges of conspiring to contravene the Prevention of Fraud (Investments) Act; two of authorizing or permitting Guinness to contravene the Companies Act; eight of false accounting; two of theft and one of destroying company documents.

Gerald Ronson, 50, of Hampstead, north-west London, faces one charge of conspiring to contravene the fraud prevention Act; one of aiding Saunders to contravene the Companies Act; two of false accounting and one of theft.

Anthony Parnes, 44, of London, faces five charges of false accounting and two of theft.

Sir Jack Lyons, 74, of Kensington, west London, faces one charge of conspiring to contravene the fraud prevention Act; one of conspiracy to contravene the Companies Act; one of aiding Saunders to contravene the Companies Act; two of false accounting and one of theft.

Inspectors regarding the supposed services Cifco gave to Guinness had nothing to do with loyalty to Mr Parnes, although the stockbroker had not pressured him to lie on his behalf.

Earlier, Mr Roux agreed with Mr Michael Sheridan, QC, counsel for Mr Ronson, that it was not an exaggeration to call Guinness's bid for Distillers a "titanic" struggle and also that the costs of the battle were "enormous by any standard".

Morgan Grenfell, Guinness's merchant bank, received about £16 million, mostly in underwriting fees. The legal firm Freshfields received £1.85 million, and the American law firm of Mr Tom Ward, a former Guinness director, was paid £46,000.

Other bills included £250,000 to the stockbrokers Hoare Govett; £980,000 to British Linen Bank, the merchant banking arm of Bank of Scotland; and £1.29 million in printing and postage. Advertising and market research costs reached almost £12 million, and £15 million was paid to the Inland Revenue in stamp and capital duties.

Morgan Grenfell spent £74 million on 13 million Distillers shares in January 1986 and bought a further 8.8 million shares the following month, Mr Roux said.

The case continues today.

### Hybrid fruit

## Research may cross pear and the cherry

By John Young

A new hybrid fruit, a cross between a pear and a cherry, may result from work in progress at Nottingham University.

Although soft and citrus fruit have been successfully crossed for many years, producing a wide range of new varieties, so-called top fruit have until now proved resistant to genetic engineering.

However, Dr Brian Power, in charge of the research at the university's Department of Botany, said yesterday that the new fruit was unlikely to be of any commercial value.

The main purpose of the research, he said, was to develop a new "universal" rootstock on to which any existing top fruit cuttings, such as apple, pear, plum or cherry, could be grafted.

At present, virtually all commercial fruit trees are produced by grafting cuttings, known as scions, on to the rootstock of wild varieties. That is because trees grown from seed are unable to cross-pollinate successfully and the quality of the fruit suffers.

Dr Power hopes that the use

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# Unlikely rebels shake the faithful in Tory heartland

By David Sapsted



Mr David Walker: Proposed a mass walkout as a protest.

Carbridge Downs Farm in Minster Lovell is an unlikely birthplace for a revolt to rock a government. Yet it was here, in the gently undulating countryside of west Oxfordshire, that Mr David Walker — "Conservative all my life" — made the decision that was to rock Westminster.

The farmer, aged 53, who is the Tory leader of West Oxfordshire District Council, decided he had had enough of the poll tax and Whitehall squeezes on local government spending. At a meeting of Conservative councillors in a crowded committee room of the council offices in Witney on Wednesday afternoon, he proposed a mass walkout from the party.

In the vote that followed — and in spite of an eleventh-hour telephoned appeal from Conservative Central Office — 13 council

lors opted to join Mr Walker in resigning the Tory whip and sitting as independents. Later, four others decided to join the rebels over the £412 poll tax the district is having to impose, leaving just seven Tory councillors out of an original controlling group of 25.

The walkout was led by Mr Walker but orchestrated by three other influential figures on the council, Mr Christopher Fox, deputy leader until Wednesday, Mr Michael Fox, a former chairman of the council, and Mr Arthur Titherington.

It was this quartet which, days before, had discussed the mounting crisis with Conservative colleagues, urging them to take part in a protest which, Mr Walker said yesterday, "would have the effect of bringing the Government to its senses".

Mr Walker, who farms 250 acres in the delightful rural area sand-

wiched between the Thames in the south-east and Cotswolds in the north-west, voiced his concern about the level of the poll tax at a private lunch with Mr Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary and MP for Whiteman, a fortnight ago.

Mr Hurd agreed to arrange for Mr Walker to lead a delegation to see Mr Christopher Chope, an under-secretary of state at the Department of the Environment.

The meeting duly took place this week, the discussion centring on the council's loss of a £2.78 million revenue from its housing revenue account and the fact that the "safety net" arrangements for the poll tax would cost an extra £47 a head in West Oxfordshire.

The minister said the department would look at the problem with the housing revenue account, but we have all heard those sorts of promises before. It seemed to us we were getting nowhere and had to do something dramatic. I must

say I've been surprised just how dramatic the results have been," Mr Walker said.

The farmer, who has been on the council for 11 years, admits that personal, electoral considerations had "some bearing" on his decision to leave. He is one of three of the rebels standing for re-election in May and, "I did not think, in all conscience, I could ask people to vote for me as a Conservative".

Now the electorate in the villages of Carbridge, Brixton Norton and Lew face the prospect of a choice between Mr Walker, Independent, and AN Other, Conservative, in those elections, although, according to Mr Victor Burge, Mr Hurd's agent in Witney, the local Tory association has yet to formally decide whether to field a candidate.

Three local Conservatives yesterday offered to stand against Mr Walker who, like the 17 other ex-

Tory councillors, says he will not be quitting the party.

The Conservative association says it has had many messages condemning the rebels; Mr Walker says he has received one "nasty phone call", but many other supportive ones.

One man who has been "extremely saddened" by the walkout is Mr Barry Norton, one of the seven councillors who have kept the faith.

Protest should, he said "be directed against Oxfordshire County Council, controlled by Labour and the Democrats. At least £39 million of the £60 million extra spending by the county this year is avoidable. That would save us nearly £100 a head on poll tax."

In the shops, on the streets and in the pubs, the rebel councillors are appealed to enjoy almost unqualified support.

The regulars in the Red Lion roared their approval of their

stand: "I never thought that you could still find Tory councillors with the guts to stand up to Margaret Thatcher," one said.

Mr Don Fidler, a roadsweeper, said that, as a council house tenant, he not only faced a £5 a week increase in rents this year but also the £412 poll tax demand.

"I'm with the councillors all the way."

Mr Victor Parker, aged 58, added: "The opposition to the poll tax has united the town even if it has embarrassed Douglas Hurd."

A businessman in the town added: "I think the councillors' decision is the culmination of several things, not least the concern over the level of the uniform business rate. Even Richard Tories like myself are backing the rebels."

There was one dissenter: an elderly woman shopper who dismissed the councillors as "traitors and quitters who should join the Communist Party."

## Householders likely to face bill 33% higher than the rates

By Ray Clancy

Poll tax will be at least a third higher than last year's rates for most home owners, according to a survey by *The Times* of 69 metropolitan and London authorities.

The survey provides the first nation-wide analysis based on finance committee recommendations which most town halls are expected to approve next week.

Millions of people in London, Birmingham, Coventry, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle upon Tyne and Wolverhampton face bills of more than £350 a head.

Only home owners in the City of London, Westminster and Wandsworth, south London, will pay less than last year's average per capita rates bills.

Just three metropolitan boroughs — Bradford, Kirklees and Trafford — are within £20 of the national £278 average charge predicted by Mr Chris Patten, the Secretary of State for the Environment.

The overwhelming majority show increases of 30 to 50 per cent. Among the highest are Birmingham (64 per cent), Sandwell (62 per cent), Wolverhampton (56 per cent), Rotherham (50 per cent), Liverpool (48 per cent) and St Helens (46 per cent).

The lowest are the Wirral (5 per cent), Trafford (11 per cent) and Bury (15 per cent).

Mr Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, faces a 72 per cent increase on the Whitehall estimate for his family home in West Oxfordshire, where 18 Tory councillors resigned the party whip on Wednesday night in protest at the poll tax.

"It now has to bear all the weight of increased local authority expenditure because of government cash limits on its own grant and the business rate for each authority."

Mr Farrington said the community charge had become a complex tax, instead of the simple concept originally intended, which was costing between £25 and £30 a head to collect.

When poll tax plans were finalized after the 1987 general election, its introduction in 1990 was expected to be in a period of low inflation, low interest rates and income tax cuts. Instead, the charge will add to the burden of a steadily rising cost of living and high mortgage rates.

High tax bills will affect areas that

the switch from rates was meant to benefit. Conservative-controlled Solihull in the West Midlands, the lowest spending metropolitan borough, has set its poll tax at £389 (36 per cent over the government target).

Mr Bob Meacham, the council leader, said: "Our figure is ridiculously high because of the unreality of government estimates. We applaud the principle of poll tax, but the civil servants in Whitehall have botched their assessments."

Surprisingly, the London authorities, who will send out 5 million bills, show lower percentage increases over government targets than the provinces. Today Conservative-controlled Wandsworth is expected to become the third London borough to match government targets when its policy committee recommends a poll tax of £171.

Miss Fiona MacTaggart, the Labour leader, said: "The Tories can only set the poll tax at this level because of £35 million in extraordinary grants from the Government and because they are using reserves built up by past special treatment for Mrs Thatcher's favourite council."

Mr Colin Farrington, director of the Institute of Revenues, Rating and Valuation, said: "The Government has probably made a mistake in introducing other radical changes in local government finance at the same time."

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High tax bills will affect areas that

The cost of collecting the poll tax in England and Wales is expected to be up to £300 million (Ray Clancy writes). The new tax needs at least twice the administration required by the rating system.

Poll tax exemptions such as second homes, caravan sites, beach huts and unoccupied properties, will all add to the cost of collecting.

Council treasurers predict that evasion will be higher than under the rates system, probably 5 per cent against the Government's assumption of 2 per cent. The Association of Metropolitan Authorities said: "It is very much easier to chase up houses than people. Houses stay put whereas people get up and go."

Collection problems will be worst for local authorities with a large

number of council tenants such as Kirby in Liverpool where more than 70 per cent of the population live in council houses. Rates are collected with the rest but the poll tax will be billed separately.

The computer industry reckons that the introduction of poll tax has resulted in orders worth tens of millions of pounds.

Collecting the tax in the London borough of Southwark will cost £39 per person. Westminster estimates its collection costs at £5 million — £37 per person. "We are determined to clamp down on those who don't pay," Lady Porter, the leader of Conservative-controlled council, said. In contrast, Birmingham, the largest metropolitan authority, expects collection to cost £4.2 million, £6 a head.

Collection problems will be worst for local authorities with a large

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A sale of memorabilia belonging to the late Group Captain Sir Douglas Bader went ahead at Phillips yesterday, raising £32,406 for Jean Bader, his widow, of seven years.

The sale had been postponed last year, after objections by historians who wanted it kept intact. Yesterday's consignment did not include the hero's medals, which were left in perpetuity to the RAF museum at Hendon by Bader.

His log book, recording the crash in which he lost both his legs with the iconic words "Crashed slow-rolling near ground. Bad show", sold to an English collector for £11,000 (estimate £4,000 to £6,000).

An official telegram reporting Bader missing in action over France on August 10 1941, and stamped "secret",

fetched £1,210 (estimate £500), while Bader's collection of 500 British photographs, including private images of Bader with members of his 242 squadron, sold to a telephone bidder for £1,100 (estimate £500).

When the auction was originally proposed in January 1989 Lady Joan, who married Bader in 1973, said she was living in rented accommodation and wanted to raise money to buy a house. The collection, she added, was "hanging around, gathering dust".

Bader lost his legs after an

accident when he was shot down flying too close to the ground in December 1931. He was invalided out of the air force for six years but kept pestering the ministry until he was allowed to fly again.

The record for the French 19th century painter Gérôme was broken at Sotheby's in New York, when his painting "Bathers" sold to a private buyer for \$2.2 million (£1.25 million).

The painting shows the lovely subject flaunting her attractions as she washed herself on an open balcony and King David looked on.

There was annoyance in the trade at the suspiciously clean and varnished appearance of the 42 Victorian paintings in the Edmund McCormick collection, also at Sotheby's.

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# Fifty die as Aoun renews assault on militia base

From A Correspondent, Beirut

Troops loyal to General Michel Aoun yesterday launched a three-pronged assault on the headquarters of the Christian Lebanese Forces militia in east Beirut, police said.

At least 50 people were killed and about 70 others injured as shells crashed into the Lebanese capital at the rate of one every five seconds. Seventy others were wounded as the Lebanese Forces of Mr Samir Geagea put up stiff

resistance. At dawn more than 1,000 Aoun troops, supported by commandos and tanks and under heavy artillery cover, launched attack in stormy weather against the militia base in Karantina, on the waterfront east of Beirut.

Police said a force pushed southwards from the coastal highway north of Beirut, piercing the militia defences in Dourah district, while another force closed in from the central sector through the Sin el-Fil area.

The covering artillery barrage shattered the residential district of Ashrafieh and the adjacent Nabaa slums. The Lebanese Forces gunners in the Kesrouan region, 12 miles to the north of the capital, kept up a barrage of shells against army positions on the outskirts of Beirut, said a local resident contacted by radio.

"The mad shelling is coming from all directions," said a militia radio station, which took a direct hit. The explosion was heard clearly on the air. Large parts of the Christian sector of the city were hidden by thick black smoke from fires started by shells.

Wave after wave of tank-led assaults had been repulsed, the radio claimed, although security forces said General Aoun's men were advancing slowly.

There were close-quarter street battles at Ashrafieh, a densely populated suburb controlled by the militia.

Fire engines and ambulances were stranded in their bases, unable to move

out while the blazing buildings sent clouds of black smoke billowing into the sky above east Beirut.

Although no significant advances were scored on the ground yesterday, military observers said General Aoun would not stop the fighting until he wins control of Beirut port, near Karantina, in order to bring in supplies.

Because the battles erupted shortly before dawn, few civilians were caught out on the streets. Tens of thousands have already fled the enclave.

The fighting ended a 12-day ceasefire, and dashed hopes that weeks of intensive mediation by church leaders and the Vatican could achieve a political solution to the conflict.

More than 770 people have been killed and about 2,800 wounded since fighting began between General Aoun's Lebanese Army and the Lebanese Forces militia on January 31. Damage to property is estimated at £300 million.

General Aoun and Mr Geagea have been battling for supremacy in the Christian enclave in central Lebanon, where about one million Christians live. At the root of the conflict is General Aoun's insistence that Mr Geagea must withdraw his implicit support for an Arab-brokered peace accord he staunchly opposes and merge his militia men with Army forces under his command.

However, the battles could go on for weeks. According to an unconfirmed report in Lebanon's respected *an-Nahar* newspaper, the Lebanese Forces last week received a shipment of Iraqi weapons, including helicopters, originally intended for General Aoun. The report said the captain of the Panamanian-flagged Atlantic 3 served notice he was prepared to deliver the shipment to whoever paid the freight charges.

"The Lebanese Forces quickly provided the needed money and acquired the shipment," *an-Nahar* said.

## WORLD ROUNDUP

### California quake prompts warning

Los Angeles (Reuters) — After an earthquake shook buildings from Las Vegas to Los Angeles and the Mexican border, 17 aftershocks rocked 13,000 sq miles, causing landslides, smashing windows and emptying store shelves. At least six people were injured in the first 20-second tremor, which struck at 3.45 pm (23.45 GMT) on Wednesday.

Dr Lucile Jones, a seismologist at the California Institute of Technology, said the number of aftershocks and land faults gave "some potential" in the next few days for an earthquake strong enough to cause major damage. The earthquake measured 5.5 on the Richter scale, strong enough to cause considerable damage, and the aftershocks were as high as 4.8. Road crews worked overnight to clear boulders twice the size of cars from Los Angeles freeways.

### Father offers reward

Nairobi — Mr John Ward, the father of Julie Ward, a British woman who was killed in a Kenyan game park 18 months ago, is offering a £15,000 reward for information leading to the conviction of her killers (A Correspondent writes). Two Scotland Yard detectives, here to aid local police with the murder investigation which reopened yesterday, announced the reward. According to Mr Justice Matthew Muli, the Kenyan Attorney General, a preliminary report by Detective Chief Superintendent Kenneth Thompson, who was in Kenya last month, exonerates the Kenyan police over allegations of covering up the death but recommends further investigations.

### Bougainville truce

Sydney — Papua New Guinea will start to withdraw its troops from Bougainville island this morning. A ceasefire is due to end 16 months of fighting by local secessionist rebels (Robert Cockburn writes). Announcing the ceasefire and voluntary withdrawal, the Prime Minister, Mr Rabie Namaliu, said in Port Moresby yesterday that all 800 troops and riot police would quit Bougainville by March 16 if peace talks progressed as planned. The agreement to negotiate a settlement marks a defeat for the mainland Army's last big offensive, launched in January. This first formal ceasefire agreement, between the national Army and the Bougainville Revolutionary Army, paves the way for direct talks.

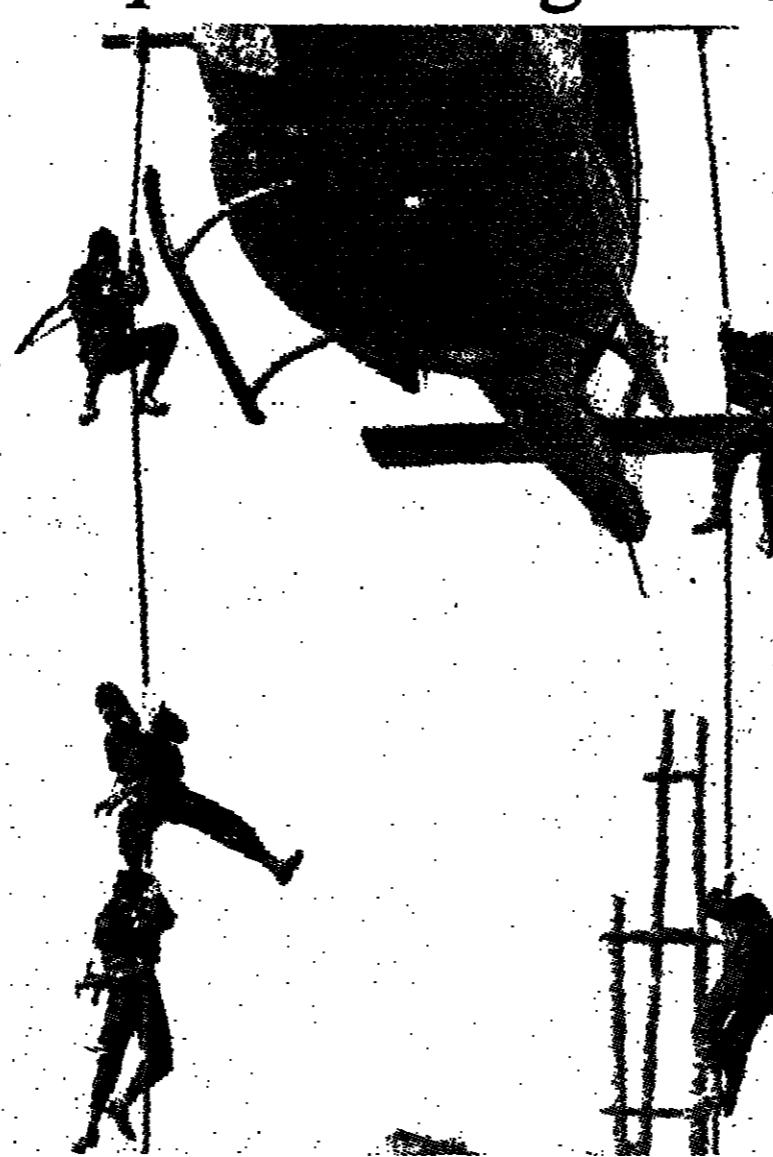
### Britons in jail break

Dunkirk (AFP) — Three prisoners, including two Britons awaiting trial on drug charges, pulled off a classic jail break here yesterday by digging a hole in the wall of their dormitory and scaling a wall using knotted sheets as ropes, prison officials said. The two Britons, identified by the French authorities as Mr Julian Dickinson, aged 22, and Mr Spencer Boye, aged 30, and the Frenchman, M Frédéric Malengro, 23, used spoons or forks stolen from the prison canteen to dig out bricks from the wall. Guards discovered the men were missing during their morning reveille rounds, the officials said, adding that six other inmates being held in the dormitory had apparently declined to join the escape. None of the three has been recaptured.

### Rome fountain threat

Rome — The famous baroque fountains of Rome, the work of such 17th and 18th-century architects as Gian Lorenzo Bernini and Nicola Salvi, are being slowly and inexorably destroyed by the water that plays over them (Paul Bompard writes). A combination of calcium deposits and corrosive chemicals dissolved in the closed-circuit water systems is both encrusting the travertine and eating it away. In an attempt to combat the deterioration, the city authorities have decided to install computerized treatment equipment which should maintain the water at the correct chemical balance. The trouble is blamed on "acid rain", formed when sulphur in car and gas central heating exhaust fumes combines with rainwater to form sulphuric acid.

# Aquino's danger men



Philippine soldiers of the Presidential Security Group displaying skills needed to protect President Aquino at the unit's fourth anniversary celebrations in Manila yesterday.

# Israel row escalates over mounting Soviet exodus

From Richard Owen, Jerusalem

With an Arab League delegation about to visit Moscow to persuade Soviet leaders to reduce the flow of Jews to Israel, a row broke out yesterday in the Israeli Government over suggestions that the number of Soviet immigrants could reach a quarter of a million this year.

Senior Israeli officials said this was "irresponsible speculation" which would only give the Arab world "more ammunition".

The growing flood of Soviet immigrants has aroused fears both in the Arab world and in the West that the new arrivals will settle in the occupied West Bank and Gaza, thus raising new obstacles to a peace settlement, just as Israel is under pressure from the US to make final preparations for its first direct talks with the Palestinians.

Mr Yossi Beilin, the Deputy Minister of Finance, insisted that the projected figure of 230,000 to 250,000 Soviet immigrants was "not unrealistic".

Government estimates of the number of Soviet Jews likely to come to Israel in the latest remarkable wave of *Aliyah* (immigration) vary widely. The most common estimate is 100,000 this year. But the Finance Ministry's budget for absorption is based on an assumption of 40,000.

A grim-faced Mr Shamir in Jerusalem yesterday, drove against the very *raison d'être* of Israel.

He repeated his assurance to President Bush last week that "no special incentives" were being given to newly arrived Soviet Jews to influence them to settle in the West Bank. But sources said many Russian immigrants were likely to conclude that it was more attractive to live in

subsidized Jewish settlements in occupied territory, and still within comfortable commuting distance from Tel Aviv.

Meanwhile, Mr Moshe Arens, the Foreign Minister and close ally of Mr Shamir, flew home from Poland yesterday to help his leader handle a growing crisis in Likud.

The party has until Wednesday day to meet a demand from Labour, its coalition partner, to accept US proposals on talks with a Palestinian delegation or face the collapse of the Government.

If Likud bows to US and Labour pressure and agrees with the composition of the Palestinian team and the agenda, the Israeli-Palestinian talks could take place in Cairo in spring.

But first Mr Shamir has to overcome increasingly bitter opposition from Likud rebels, headed by Mr Ariel Sharon, who believe the Palestinian elections will lead to a Palestinian state intent on Israel's destruction.

Mr Shamir said that under the US proposals the Palestinian delegation would include Palestinians living abroad and Arab residents of East Jerusalem. But Israel would never be a party to any agreement "which casts doubt on the status of united Jerusalem as Israel's eternal capital".

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# France presses for Kohl pledge on Oder-Neisse talks

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

Herr Helmut Kohl, the West German Chancellor, yesterday refused to commit himself to Poland's call for immediate talks on a draft treaty on the Oder-Neisse border, despite pointed criticism by the French Foreign Minister that his ambiguities were destabilizing.

Herr Kohl said he could not accept the proposal by Mr Tadeusz Mazowiecki, the Polish Prime Minister, that East and West Germany should begin negotiations with Poland without waiting for reunification.

Meanwhile in West Berlin, M Roland Dumas, the French Foreign Minister, said the border was inviolable, and Bonn ought to say so without delay.

Herr Kohl said he was in no position to negotiate for all Germany, and he disagreed with Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, his Foreign Minister, who has pressed the Polish proposal on his Cabinet colleagues. Poland wants the two states to initial a draft treaty renouncing any claim to territories lost after the Second World War, with the text being ratified by an all-German parliament after reunification.

Herr Kohl insisted that no one in Germany wanted to link reunification with the border question, but Poland's western frontier could only be legally settled by a treaty between Poland and a reunified Germany. He repeated his readiness to accept an immediate joint declaration by the parliaments of both East and West Germany on the inviolability of the present border, if this would calm Polish fears.

M Dumas yesterday sharply attacked the Chancellor's

continued hair-splitting. At a press conference during a one-day visit to West Berlin he emphasized that the Polish-East German border was inviolable. This must be said in Bonn without delay to kill uncertainties and fears, the seeds of instability, he added.

"Putting off a response to wait for the constitution of a grand parliament is not reasonable," he said. "What is hindering the parliaments of both Germanies from making both their resolution today? There

Herr Kohl said Germany must remain part of NATO; his electoral partners hedged the issue, saying discussions had not yet begun on which grouping - NATO or the Warsaw Pact - they wanted to see their country belong to.

Herr Kohl and the Alliance

said they supported reunification under Article 23 of the West German Constitution. Under this, the five reconstituted East German Länder would simply vote to join the Federal Republic. The Alliance leaders said they accepted the immediate application of the West German Constitution in East Germany.

Chancellor Kohl insisted that reunification would not lead to higher taxes in the West. But despite calls from the East for an exchange rate of 1:1 for the two currencies - to reassure East German pensioners and those with savings - he said the rate had still to be negotiated.

Herr Schmitt said his party did not want handouts from Bonn; East Germans had the will and means to rebuild their country by their own efforts. "We are not beggars," he said. His party wanted a market economy, and not some third way of socialism. "People can no longer even bear the word socialism," he said.

The three men emphasized that the Oder-Neisse border was not an issue in East Germany. All parties accepted its inviolability. "We have all stated clearly and unambiguously that the borders are those of 1990, without reservations," said Herr Wolfgang Schmitt,

M Dumas: Says ambiguities are destabilizing.

are moments when silence is heavy with ambiguities."

Herr Kohl spoke yesterday at a joint press conference with the leaders of the Alliance - the three conservative parties in East Germany who have joined forces to fight the election on a platform supported by Herr Kohl's ruling Christian Democrats.

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# Genscher takes election trail across border



Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the West German Foreign Minister and leader of the Free Democratic Party, getting a warm Liberal welcome in Erfurt.

## Western VIPs steal East's poll limelight

From Anne McElvoy, Erfurt

The citizens of the southern town of Erfurt could be forgiven for thinking that election candidates for Thuringia, the East German heartland, are being shipped in from across the border, such is the involvement of Big Brother (West) in the campaign.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl came here last week; Herr Willy Brandt was here last Sunday; and Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher came on a mission to stir Liberal hearts on Wednesday.

But the most persistent so far has been Herr Rudi Arndt, a veteran Social Democrat,

a veteran Social Democrat, former Mayor of Frankfurt and leader of the Socialist group in the European Parliament. At 62, and after leaving Strasbourg last year - "I could have been president but I did not want it" - he had all but retired from politics when the changes in the East allowed the Social Democrats there to re-form after 40 years.

Herr Arndt, a boisterous left-winger, wasted no time in marching across the border from Frankfurt to Erfurt doling out good advice.

"I thought a bit of old-hand

experience would not go amiss when a party has to start with nothing in November and win an election by March." Everyone in Erfurt knows him. He has taken a flat in the town and engages in dawn-to-dusk door-knocking sessions.

He was shameless about the intervention in East Germany's first free elections. "The Social Democrats have a tradition in the East which was rudely interrupted by the communist ban. We are simply picking up the torch after 40 years," he says.

He has chosen a difficult

patch. The combination of the middle-class milieu, the strength of the Church and the visit of Herr Kohl last week make Erfurt more likely to vote with the conservative Alliance. He reacts to the prognosis with the stubborn disbelief of the seasoned campaigner, telling one doubter that the minimal impact of Herr Kohl's visit can be judged by the fact that city trams were still able to run while he was speaking.

Herr Arndt says that he will return to Frankfurt after the election. "The parties here will have to reach a consensus among themselves in order to conquer the burden of the past. We have no business here then."

Former colleagues say that he is relishing the opportunity to rescue his receding profile by finding a new stage on which to shine, even if only briefly.

Does he see himself as the first West German mayor of Erfurt? "For heaven's sake, no. Done that once, did not like it much," he says, and strides off in the direction of another voter.

## Mandela in Lusaka

### ANC armed wing stays

From Gavin Bell, Lusaka

The African National Congress is determined to keep its armed wing and its clandestine cells in South Africa in the crucial run-up to power-sharing negotiations with the Patriotic Government.

While welcoming President de Klerk's peace initiatives, the ANC is not convinced that he shares its vision of a non-racial democracy, and is wary of being manoeuvred into a weak negotiating position.

Cautious was evident when the ANC's 34-member national executive began a two-day meeting in Lusaka yesterday with realistic prospects of political power on its agenda for the first time in the organization's 78-year history.

Mr Nelson Mandela, the veteran figurehead leader of the ANC, attending his first national executive meeting in three decades, ensured the session flanked by Mr Alfred Nzo, the acting president, and Mr Joe Slovo, the general secretary of the South African Communist Party.

After the lifting of bans on the ANC and the release of Mr Mandela, who is to speak at a rock concert and rally at Wembley in London on Easter Monday in April, executive members were in a relaxed and expansive mood as they chatted informally with journalists before the opening session.

Mr Joe Modise, the com-

mander of the armed wing, however, rejected recent suggestions by President Kaunda of Zambia and members of the Anglican clergy in South Africa that his forces should lay down their arms as a gesture of reconciliation.

"Nothing fundamental has happened to justify suspending the armed struggle. Even if we reach such a stage, it would be a matter for negotiations and this presupposes that a

Johannesburg - Mr R. F. "Pi" Botha, the South African Foreign Minister, met Angolan leaders yesterday, his first official visit there, for talks on economic co-operation and South African developments (Ray Kennedy writes).

His announcement at a specially convened joint session of the tricameral Parliament in Cape Town came after General Magnus Malan, the Defence Minister, said he had documentary proof that Lubowski was a spy.

Mr Lubowski was murdered in Windhoek, the Namibian capital, last year allegedly by gunmen who have been linked to the shadowy Civil Cooperation Bureau, a branch of military intelligence which is suspected of carrying out political assassinations.

Mr de Klerk said the inquiry he announced in January to investigate claims about the existence of police "hit squads" would now include the Lubowski affair.

### Hong Kong passport plea encounters legal hurdles

By Catherine Sampson in Peking and Andrew McEwen in London

In a move which could undermine Britain's efforts to slow the exodus of key people from Hong Kong, China repeated yesterday that it might not recognize passports given by Britain and other nations to Hong Kong Chinese.

Britain has approached a wide range of friendly nations asking them to grant citizenship to Hong Kong nationals, with the aim of giving essential workers the confidence to remain in the colony during the last years of British rule.

But it became clear yesterday that the Government has found a far less encouraging response than reports suggest. Several countries have said they would like to help but are prevented by their laws.

Reports that France, The Netherlands, Italy, Canada, Australia, Japan and Singa-

pore had promised to provide passports were "premature", official sources said.

Only "one or two" countries responded favourably and others were still considering Britain's request.

The most promising response to the British request for help came yesterday from France. A Foreign Ministry official made clear that key Hong Kong people working for French companies were likely to be given permission to live in France under residence permits.

Canada rejected the request on legal grounds, although it emphasized its willingness to continue allowing 25,000 Hong Kong people a year to settle in Canada.

Italy said it was "favourable in principle" but had legal difficulties because only those resident in Italy for five years

qualify for citizenship. A Dutch Foreign Ministry spokesman said it was unaware of the British request and an Australian official doubted whether Canberra had made any decision yet.

The willingness of other countries to help is likely to slip with the tough line taken yesterday by the Chinese Foreign Ministry.

Mr Li Zhaoxing, its spokesman, said that any Chinese citizen who wanted to acquire foreign citizenship must "obtain approval to forfeit his or her Chinese citizenship". China regards all Hong Kong Chinese as Chinese citizens.

But a Western diplomat noted that before 1997, while Britain is still running Hong Kong, China will not be able to enforce such requirements for renouncing Chinese citizenship.

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## CHANGING FACE OF EUROPE

# Kremlin still split on military role of a united Germany

From Mary Dejevsky, Moscow

Leaders of East Germany's recently formed Social Democratic Party said in Moscow yesterday that troops from Nato and the Warsaw Pact might be allowed to stay in a unified Germany without upsetting the Soviet Union.

They suggested, however, that there were still divisions in the Kremlin over accepting Nato membership for even the western part of a united Germany.

Herr Ibrahim Böhme, chairman of the Social Democratic Party, and Herr Walter Römer, a minister without portfolio in East Germany's present coalition Government, were addressing a press conference at the end of a two-day visit to the Soviet capital. The previous day they met Mr Valentin Falin, the Kremlin's specialist on Germany, and Mr Aleksandr Yakovlev, a reformist on the Politburo regarded as close to President Gorbachev.

The high-level access enjoyed by the delegation was more appropriate to officials from a fraternal party and suggested that they were being treated as potential East German leaders. According to some predictions — dismissed by Herr Böhme as an attempt to mobilize the opposition — the Social Democrats could win more than 50 per cent of the vote in the elections on March 18.

Herr Römer outlined a scheme proposed by the Social Democrats which would allow each of the four powers — the United States, Britain, France and the Soviet Union — to maintain a token force of 30,000 troops in Germany for some time after unification. Germany itself would be permitted a balancing force of approximately 130,000 men.

Herr Römer said that the plan had met with Soviet approval and did not contradict Moscow's stipulation that a unified Germany should not destroy what it saw as the present equilibrium between the two alliances in Europe.

This was the form of words chosen by President Gorbachev in a *Pravda* interview last week when he avoided insisting either that a united Germany should be neutral or that it should be outside Nato.

The Social Democratic delegation's visit was part of an intensive round of Soviet diplomacy in advance of the four-power talks on the future of Germany.

On Wednesday, Mr Yakovlev also received a

group of West German Social Democrats, led by Herr Egou Bahr, for discussions on unity.

The same day Mr Edward Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister, received the East German ambassador, who handed over his government's proposals for stage-by-stage unification, synchronized with "the all-European process" and the creation of a new security structure for the continent.

According to Tass, Mr Shevardnadze had emphasized that the task of the talks is "not to rubber-stamp everything that may be advanced as a result of preliminary discussions by two, three or four participants of the group".

This echoed Mr Gorbachev's insistence that it would be unacceptable for some participants to agree on a solution beforehand and present the Soviet Union with a

vent it. In the space of two weeks last month, Mr Gorbachev met Herr Hans Modrow, the East German Prime Minister, Herr Gregor Gysi, the East German party leader, and Chancellor Helmut Kohl of West Germany.

The Ottawa agreement on the "four plus two" formula for talks (in which talks between the four powers would be followed by further talks involving the two German states) was concluded shortly afterwards.

While Soviet diplomacy on Germany can be regarded as modestly successful so far, Moscow's preoccupation with the German question, and with its own domestic problems, may be handicapping its diplomatic efforts in other areas.

The Foreign Ministry announced yesterday that planned visits to the Soviet Union by President Mubarak of Egypt and Mr Charles Haughey, the Irish Prime Minister, had been postponed, as had the Soviet Foreign Minister's trip to Japan.

All had been scheduled for March. Mr Mubarak's visit would have been the first by an Egyptian leader for 18 years, and could have formed the basis for a new Soviet initiative in the Middle East.

Mr Shevardnadze's Tokyo visit was expected to set a date for Mr Gorbachev's promised visit to Japan.

There is, as yet, no news of a change in the timing of the Gorbachev-Bush summit in Washington, which is planned for early June — less than a month before the rescheduled Communist Party congress in Moscow.

But the importance for the Soviet side of completing disarmament agreements suggests it is doing all it can to keep to the original timetable for the summit.

● BUDAPEST: Talks between Hungary and the Soviet Union on the complete withdrawal of Soviet forces are held up over the issue of a timetable, according to Mr Ferenc Somogyi, the State Secretary of the Foreign Ministry, who heads the Hungarian negotiating team (Ernest Beck writes).

Speaking after two days of talks with Soviet experts, Mr Somogyi said big differences remained over how quickly the 50,000 Soviet troops should leave. Hungary would like an agreement signed by March 10 — two weeks before multi-party elections.

Although in his *Pravda* interview Mr Gorbachev was careful to leave room for negotiation over the precise form that a united Germany would take, shades of earlier disagreement in the Kremlin reappeared in the discussions held by the East German Social Democratic leaders.

According to Herr Römer, the Soviet side had ruled out anything except neutrality for a united Germany. When questioned on this point, he said that their talk had not been formal inter-government talks and should not be interpreted as representing the firm position of either side.

In the past two months, Moscow has acknowledged that German unification is inevitable sooner rather than later and has sought to control the process rather than pre-

## Private enterprise boost

From Peter Green, Prague

The Czechoslovak Government approved measures on establishing private enterprises and joint stock companies yesterday, but it could not agree on a proposal for restructuring state-owned enterprises.

The private enterprises Bill puts no limit on the number of workers in a private business and allows entrepreneurs to acquire property for their concerns. But the First Deputy Prime Minister, Mr Václav Komárek, acknowledged that government ownership of the vast majority of Czechoslovak real estate and industrial capacity remained an obstacle to private enterprise.

The Bills are expected before the Federal

Assembly within two weeks. Pressure is building on the Government and Parliament to deliver a comprehensive economic reform package, as the country seeks admission to the International Monetary Fund and associate status with the European Community. An IMF delegation is expected in Prague next week. Mr Komárek later said the Government would act soon to prevent tourists, notably Austrians, emptying stores of inexpensive foodstuffs and gasoline. It would consider increasing the foreign currency visitors must exchange and introducing petrol vouchers for foreign cars. Tourists buy foodstuffs for as little as a sixth of prices across the border.

## Perks of power linger on in the brave new world

From Roger Boyes

Warsaw

It was the pig, was it not, who crept out at night and daubed "two legs good, four legs bad" on the barn door?

Orwell's *Animal Farm*, that fable of revolution, totalitarian rule and revisionism, haunts the new regimes of Eastern Europe; the pig, it will be recalled, took on all the characteristics of their loathed rulers, the

Now that the breakneck revolution of 1989 has settled down, there is an abiding question: how to resist the corruption of power? How long will the dissidents-turned-leaders of Poland, Czechoslovakia and East Germany hold out against perks and privileges before starting to govern out of self-interest?

In Romania, of course, these questions are easily answered, since the governing core have been plucked from one or other of the many Ceausescu teams. There are exceptions, such as the fine poet Mirela Dinescu, but in the main the old political class has brushed down its suits and become the new political power.

In Prague and Warsaw it is quite different. President Havel, it is said, uses a child's scooter to drive around the long corridors of the residential castle. If true, there will be no more fitting symbol of the new regime.

But Poland has marched on. Six months into power, with no national

Ministerial office carries privilege, as a minister should not waste time

Scrap the holiday homes and special hospital!

Mr Kuron is now Minister of Labour, on the sharp edge of the Solidarity-led Government, since he has to cope with the new phenomenon of mass unemployment — 200,000 and rising rapidly. Last December he was taken ill with heart problems and whisked to hospital. Not the provincial Warsaw hospital, which has beds piled up in the corridor like a traffic jam, whose doctors have to make do with one-use syringes for 15 patients, where damp blankets the ceiling in Emilii Plater Street; there is a rather grand

government hospital. It has an ordinary section of 94 beds, a special dispensary (with rare Western medicine), clean floors, no queues, ample staff (including 12 professors of medicine). Within the hospital there is a second, even more privileged section — separate private rooms, including at least one with direct telephones and colour television. It was here that Mr Kuron received his excellent treatment.

In a country of short supply there is an argument for such a hospital. As Dr Zofia Kuratowska, Speaker of Parliament and a respected doctor, puts it: "In a normally functioning country such a clinic would be immediately dissolved. In Poland, though, you cannot go without it. If the ministers went to ordinary hospitals, then ordinary patients would probably be pushed aside. But such favours should be granted only for the team in office — no family members should profit from it."

That is the nub. Ministerial office carries privilege, at least partly because a minister should not waste time. But his wife and children or former ministers, former politburo members and their many relatives, should not be lumped together to form a privileged class.

Some 14,000 people have access to the hospital on Emilii Plater Street; there is a rather grand

government hospital. It has an ordinary section of 94 beds, a special dispensary (with rare Western medicine), clean floors, no queues, ample staff (including 12 professors of medicine). Within the hospital there is a second, even more privileged section — separate private rooms, including at least one with direct telephones and colour television. It was here that Mr Kuron received his excellent treatment.

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The parliament is planning a debate soon on the subject and it should get to the heart of the problem of the *nomenklatura*, and define more precisely what is due to

the Government — says Parliament should make over all the buildings to the public. But at the same time, he emphasizes, ministers should get a decent salary.

Mr Tadeusz Mazowiecki, the Polish Prime Minister, received a pay rise last month, but he still earns only 2.7 million zloties (about £170) a month; President Jaruzelski earns slightly more. Parliamentary deputies earn 900,000 zloties (£55) a month.

A painting by the Polish master, Makowski, valued at around £22,000, has disappeared from the party building, a sign of the financial and organisational chaos wrought by the collapse of communism. The party was so confident, until the end of last year, that it never bothered to check whether it actually owned the property it occupied.

Now that it is being evicted, there are fierce rows over the estate — does the state or the party own the central committee headquarters in the middle of Warsaw? The question is crucial.

For Solidarity, though, there are also the nagging issues of privilege and the permanence of power. Most Solidarity ministers are praying that their families do not fall sick so that they will not be faced with the ethical dilemma of special medical treatment; some, especially those who were prisoners of the communists, have renounced their holiday home privileges. But the smart chauffeur still arrives punctually at Mr Kuron's doorstep to bring him to

## Lifting the veil on mysteries of Romania's revolution



## Rising linked to Russian tourists

From Richard Bassett, Bucharest

In Bucharest's crumbling Athenaeum Palace Hotel, where the furniture is still riddled with bullet holes left by the trigger-happy Romanian Army last December, a page of the visitors' book is missing.

For Mr Grigore Corpescu, who is attempting to reconstruct on film Romania's December revolution, this missing page is the key part of an as yet untold story.

Mr Corpescu has no doubt that the revolution here was carefully stage-managed — as was the case in Prague and East Berlin — by the Russians. "They were certainly critically involved both before and afterwards," he says.

Yesterday, as Mr Corpescu filmed Ceausescu's helicopter (complete with the same pilot) landing once again on the roof of party headquarters, he was keen to dwell on the unanswered questions which shroud the Romanian revolution.

"The pilot of this helicopter is an old friend. I have many friends in the police. Timisoara was not started by the Rev László Tokes," he says.

According to Mr Corpescu, a party of Soviet "tourists", all unusually on individual visas, arrived in Timisoara two days before the first demonstration outside Mr Tokes' house. Police records trace them reaching Bucharest on December 20.

By the 24th, two days after Ceausescu fled by helicopter, the Russians had disappeared. No police records exist to indicate how they left the country.

Everyone in Bucharest agrees that on December 21 the first people to shout "Down with Ceausescu" at the rally the dictator rashly called were a small group of

amalgamation of the two alliances.

One subject on which the two ministers shared concern was that of minority rights, in particular the action of the Romanian authorities in preventing the importation of Hungarian-language books.

The Romanian action was a "worrying signal", said Mr Hurd, voicing the hope that Bucharest would relent. Romania, after the fall of Ceausescu, had accepted its obligations under the Helsinki Final Act, and they included an obligation on human rights, Mr Hurd observed. It was very important that Romania should show its willingness to accept European standards on human rights.

● Direct election: The Hungarian Parliament yesterday took the bold step of amending the country's new Constitution to allow for direct popular election of the president rather than his election by Parliament (Ernest Beck writes).

MPs voted almost unanimously in favour, despite charges by opposition members that the Constitution should not be tampered with so close to the election, and that this Parliament has no authority to make such a change.

## TIGRAY, ETHIOPIA



Peter Sharp's reports on ITN News confirm that the people of Tigray, northern Ethiopia, are facing mass starvation, with the death toll mounting daily.

## HELP US FIGHT FAMINE

Please support the only organisation able to reach the people in need.

Donations to:

Relief Society of Tigray (REST)

27 Beresford Road,

London N5 5HS.

Tel: 01-354 2380/01-359 8855.

# Election rout highlights cracks in Gandhi party

From Christopher Thomas, Delhi

The full extent of the rout of the Congress (I) party in Indian state elections dawned yesterday, and the news could hardly have been more depressing for a party that is plainly starting to come apart.

It lost control of at least five states — and possibly as many as seven, when all results are finally declared — in voting on Tuesday. By last night the party had conceded defeat in Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh and Rajasthan.

The right-wing Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party basked in triumph. It won outright in Madhya Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh and was likely to capture an overall majority in Rajasthan.

Janata Dal, the party of Mr Vishwanath Pratap Singh, the Prime Minister, registered a stunning win in the eastern state of Orissa, capturing more than three-quarters of the vote, the biggest state victory recorded anywhere in independent India. Congress held 117 seats there before the poll; it now has nine.

Gujarat seemed likely last night to fall to a Bharatiya Janata-Janata Dal coalition. Results from Arunachal Pradesh remained sketchy, with no clear trends.

The Congress debacle came

after a campaign that never properly got off the ground. Mr Rajiv Gandhi focused on the crisis in Kashmir, where Muslim secessionists are staging a mass uprising. It turned out to be a disastrous mistake. Hindu India has clearly been satisfied with the Janata Dal Government's tough security clampdown in the Muslim-dominated Kashmir valley.

The only good news for Congress was in Maharashtra, where an earlier poor performance

Delhi (Reuter) — A bomb blast on a train in the northern Indian state of Uttar Pradesh killed five people yesterday and wounded 16. The Railway Ministry said that the express was at a station in Meerut early in the morning when the bomb went off, wrecking a sleeping-car. It did not apportion blame for the blast, but noted that the train had begun its journey in Amritsar, the Sikhs' holy city in Punjab.

Performance was turned round as votes continued coming in late last night. It appeared to be moving marginally ahead of an alliance between Bharatiya Janata and the militant Hindu party, Shiv Sena.

The outcome in Bihar, the northern state that has been plagued by voting frauds and

undemocratically structured party of opportunists who lack real political or ideological commitment. Janata Dal is a fragile mish-mash of many parties. The Communists, the only other significant political force in India, have long been powerful in only two states: Kerala and West Bengal.

Growing resentment towards Muslims has helped Bharatiya Janata's rise to prominence. The Kashmir uprising and a fierce Hindu-Muslim dispute over a religious site in the Uttar Pradesh town of Ayodhya have fanned the flames of Hindu fundamentalism.

• SRINAGAR: At least 21 people were killed and several wounded yesterday when troops fired on Kashmiri Muslims demanding independence from India, police and witnesses said (Reuters reports).

Police said soldiers fired at demonstrators at Zakura near Srinagar, killing 13 people. The demonstrators were on their way to a procession in the city. In another incident, security forces fired at a procession in Srinagar, killing eight people and wounding several others, witnesses said.

They said demonstrators shouted anti-India slogans and threw stones at the troops. Congress, by contrast, is an

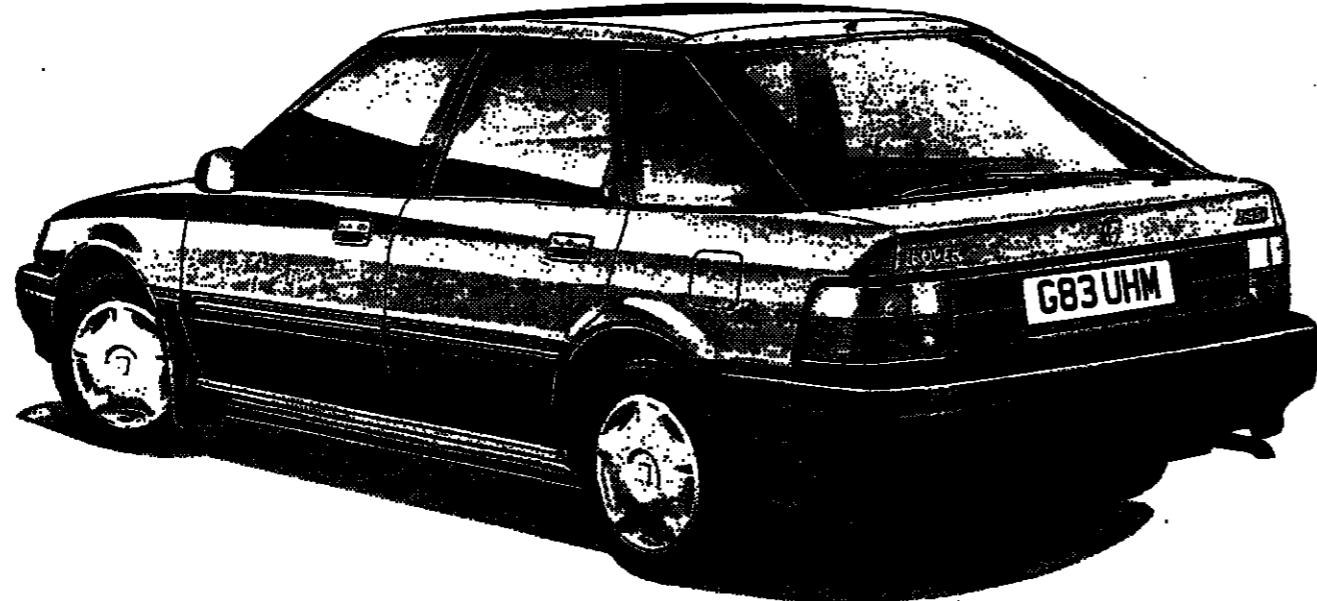
# Canadian firemen beat 17-day blaze



Canadian firemen lining up for a victory photograph after putting out a fire at a tyre dump in Hagersville, Ontario. The blaze, which had been raging for 17 days, was caused by arson, the owner of the dump said. It consumed millions of old tyres, forced the evacuation of hundreds of residents, and took the relentless efforts of a 40-member crew of firemen to conquer it (John Best writes from Ottawa). They proved wrong earlier predictions that the fire would continue burning for months. However, extensive tests remain to be carried out to determine the extent of environmental damage, including how much toxic material from the fire found its way into the water table. "It's out, man, it's history," said Mr Buck Sote, the chief of the volunteer Hagersville fire department. "We're going to spend about a week out there cleaning up and then we're going to have one hell of a party right here in the fire hall," Mr Sote said.

# ROVER 214 Si.

## WHAT CAR? CAR OF THE YEAR 1990.



UP WHERE IT BELONGS, OF COURSE.

On Tuesday evening, What Car? magazine awarded not only Best Family Hatchback 1990 but also overall Car of the Year 1990 to the Rover 214 Si 16v.



THE NEW ROVER 200 SERIES

# Recruit scandal haunts Kaifu even in victory

From Joe Joseph, Tokyo

In what is becoming an embarrassing inauguration ritual for Japanese prime ministers, the newly re-elected Mr Toshiki Kaifu has been tipped into a scandal after a magazine accused him of concealing donations he had received from the disgraced Recruit company.

Mr Kaifu, who was catapulted to power last autumn — precisely because he appeared to be one of those rarities in Japanese political life, a man with clean hands — denies the accusation.

But the Socialist-led opposition parties, which failed to oust Mr Kaifu in general elections just over a week ago, said yesterday that they would question the Prime Minister in Parliament about the allegation. They can scarcely believe their luck in finding still more political mileage in Recruit's apparently boundless generosity.

Shukan Bunshun, a respected weekly magazine with a 700,000 circulation, yesterday accused Mr Kaifu of receiving 26.3 million yen (£100,000) from the Recruit company between 1983 and 1987. On becoming Prime Minister last August, he admitted receiving only 14.4 million yen from Recruit, all of it legally.

Shukan Bunshun says it has a list of donations drafted by Recruit, and says the list is in the hands of the Tokyo public prosecutors who are pressing bribery charges against several businessmen and politicians.

Most awkwardly, the magazine's allegations hit the streets yesterday morning, when Mr Kaifu was still looking bleary-eyed after having fought into the pre-dawn hours of Wednesday morning to assemble a Cabinet that he promised voters that Recruit.

The magazine smells hypocrisy and Tokyo cynics are wondering whether some of the enemies that Mr Kaifu has made among the faction bosses of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party by his sudden hoiter-than-thou haughtiness have leaked word of the extra donations by way of revenge. Mr Kaifu told reporters:

## British reporter free

Nairobi — Julian Ozanne, aged 25, the British journalist arrested in Khartoum for unspecified security reasons nine days ago, was released yesterday and ordered to leave Sudan in 24 hours, a Sudanese Embassy spokesman here said (A Correspondent writes). A security source in Khartoum was quoted as saying that Mr Ozanne, who lives in Nairobi, had been held because he had documents unrelated to his work.

## Guard killed

Guatemala City (AP) — A Guatemalan security guard at the Swedish Embassy was found beaten and shot to death in an embassy bathroom in what appeared to be a politically motivated attack.

## Medellin hit

Bogotá (Reuter) — Seven bombs rocked Medellin, Colombia's second largest city, partly blacking it out. Radio stations said a little-known left-wing guerrilla group had claimed responsibility.

## Claim denied

Peking (Reuter) — China has dismissed as groundless a protest by foreign journalists against police surveillance and intimidation of their Chinese contacts.

ers: "I have checked thoroughly and reported everything. It is hard to prove the fact that I did not receive (extra donations) when I did not receive them. There are many opinions in the world and, as far as I am concerned, I have released everything we are aware of."

Mr Kazuyoshi Hanada, the managing editor of Shukan Bunshun, said: "We cannot reveal the source of the list, but we have fully confirmed it and are confident about its credibility."

In August the Prime Minister was still shouting his victory "Banzai" when a gossip-filled weekly ran a cover story under the headline "The Truth About Toshiki Kaifu's Illegitimate Child Scandal", in which it alleged that he had at least one affair and possibly fathered a daughter out of wedlock. Mr Kaifu angrily dismissed the suggestions as "a complete lie". The allegations were later retracted.

Mr Sosuke Uno, Mr Kaifu's predecessor, had no hope of refuting the attacks against him in like vein. A week after he took over the reins last June from Mr Noboru Takeshita, one of the Recruit affair's most prominent victims, Mr Uno became the subject of Japan's first political sex scandal.

His brave denials became embarrassing when the bar girls he had courted began talking openly to journalists of his bedroom habits.

Leading article, page 15



Mr Kaifu: Chosen as a man whose hands were clean.

## Five jailed

Peking (AP) — Five Chinese nationals accused of spying for Taiwan have been jailed by a Shanghai court. One of them, Zhou Yan, charged with spying during last year's pro-democracy demonstrations, was jailed for life.

## Finance post

Caracas (Reuter) — Señor Roberto Pocaterra, president of the state-run Industrial Bank of Venezuela, will take office as Finance Minister next week. Señor Elio Iturbe, the incumbent, said.

## Career girls

Madrid (AFP) — Prostitutes in central Madrid have completed formalities to set up a professional association, the first of its kind in Spain.

March 1 1990

## PARLIAMENT

# Labour plans for council cash 'are worst of all'

Labour's proposals for local authority finance were the worst of all, Mrs Thatcher said when defending her policies at question time.

Jubilant Labour MPs were particularly delighted with the opportunity to raise the subject of Wednesday's resignation of the Conservative whip by 18 councillors on the West Oxfordshire District Council.

One called it a "popular uprising" by "reforming elements in the Tory Party". Mr Neil Kinnock said it made clear that Mrs Thatcher was running out of friends as well as excuses.

First to speak was Mr Mike Watson (Glasgow Central, Lab), who said if she recalled saying recently that once people got used to the poll tax they would wonder why they had not had it before (loud Labour laughter).

"Is she so out of touch that she is unaware that in Scotland, where the poll tax has been in operation already for a year, it is as unwanted, as unacceptable and, for many families, as unpayable as it has ever been?"

Mrs Thatcher: No. It is a very much fairer system - (Labour laughter) - than domestic rates which preceded it... It is patently unfair that, under the previous system, only half of those who had the vote in local authorities paid the rates. That is the primary unfairness.

Under the rating system, the single person in one house paid the same rates as four or five people in the next. That too was patently unfair.

Mr Kinnock, Leader of the Opposition: Does the Prime Minister have any plans to make an official visit to west Oxfordshire? (loud laughter).

Mrs Thatcher: No. I rather wish I did, to explain a thing or two (loud laughter).

Mr Kinnock said that he hoped that this signified a new readiness on her part to listen. The Conservative councillors who resigned the whip last night explained that they were resigning "in protest at the Government's local government policies in general and those on housing and the community charge in particular".

"When her own councillors are blaming her Government, is it not clear that she is running out of both friends and excuses?"

Mrs Thatcher: But not explanations of the facts. Of course, I know that he is never perturbed by facts.

The community charge of £412 is very high and the situation is made worse by

Oxfordshire County Council's Labour and Liberals' gross overspending.

Their standing spending assessment agreed by Government was up by 12 per cent on which revenue grant is paid. But they are spending another £96 per adult. That accounts for the larger share of the increase in the community charge.

Mr Kinnock: Does she realize that she is merely proving the point of the Tory councillor who resigned the whip last night saying: "Any tax that requires that much explanation must be bad".

Mrs Thatcher: He always prepares his supplements before he hears the previous answer. The explanation is very

## Inflation hope

During the exchanges Mr Robert McCracken (Brentwood and Ongar, C) said that the London Business School and the National Institute for Economic and Social Research had been predicting over the past few days that the level of inflation was likely to have reduced to about 4.5 per cent by the turn of next year and that mortgage rates were quite likely at that time to be under 10 per cent.

"Does she not agree that at least as much significance should be placed on these medium-term predictions than on the understandable gloom occasioned by one month's admittedly bad trade figures?" (laughter)

Mrs Thatcher said that her friends in Oxfordshire undoubtedly wished that Oxfordshire County Council was under Conservative control, which would have meant a much lower community charge.

Mr Dennis Canavan (Falkirk West, Lab) asked when the Prime Minister was going to face up to the fact that she and her poll tax would be defeated by a combination of people power in Scotland and deepening electoral unpopularity in England and Wales.

Mrs Thatcher said that inflation and mortgage rates "will be likely to fall if we stick for the coming months to high rates of interest in order to cut the money supply and get inflation down. We must do that, until the rate of inflation goes down and others will follow."

simple and very brief. (loud Labour laughter).

Oxfordshire County Council is increasing its spending by three times the level of inflation. That is Labour-Liberal policy. They want to put up the community charge as much as they can so that they can blame us instead of putting the blame on themselves where it should rest.

Mr Patrick Cormack (South Staffordshire, C) said that some seventy Conservative MPs had indicated that education spending should now be transferred to central government. Would the Prime Minister give further earnest consideration to the possible advantages of such a move?

Mrs Thatcher said that it

## House of Lords

# Bishop opposes arts lotteries

The following report appeared in later editions yesterday.

A proposal for a large, privately run lottery to raise money for the arts, sport and the environment was sharply opposed by the Bishop of Manchester, the Right Rev Stanley Booth-Clibborn, during a short debate in the Lords.

He told peers that this was already, in many senses, a mean nation and they should be careful of anything that "gives a further twist to that meanness".

He expressed fears about "giving" always being associated with getting something, or the hope of something in return. There was also a danger of a proper sense of taxation and public funding being eroded.

"The answer lies in public education and in generating enthusiasm for the causes which there are. It is a slow road. It offers no immediate relief from the enormous critics which face us."

"But if we were to go down the road of

establishing a national lottery, we might be doing damage to the social fabric of this country which, at the moment, we cannot see but which would become visible in later years."

The debate was opened by Lord Birkett (Ind), who moved a motion calling attention to the advantages of such a lottery. A single national lottery, once it was up and running, in its second year, was likely to produce a gross figure of something like £2.5 billion a year.

Of that figure, 20 per cent would go into administration. That would leave £2 billion, half of which would go on prizes. There would be some prizes of £1 million and lots at £2 or £5. Tickets would cost £1.

Among the uses (for the remaining sum) would be more galleries and the buying of works of art.

Lord Donaldson of Kingsbridge (Lib Dem) was enthusiastically in favour of any plan to make more money available for the

arts. That was irresistible. He said that Mr Goodman, when chairman of the Arts Council a few years ago, had said that he would take money from anywhere for the arts, including a brothel. "I share that view."

Lady Ewart-Biggs, for the Opposition, said that she saw a danger that British governments would be tempted to withdraw funding from the arts, sport and the environment if there was a national lottery to them.

Earl Ferrers, Minister of State, Home Office, said that it was unlawful to promote or conduct big lotteries here, including those based outside Great Britain.

The Government's present understanding was that the law on lotteries would not be affected by the single market in 1992.

It had no plans to amend the law, "but we will continue to consider whether and, if so, how some of the complexities might be addressed."

# Harrier trainers will cost £200m

The following report appeared in later editions yesterday.

The Ministry of Defence is to order 14 new Harrier two-seat training aircraft at a cost of £200 million. Mr Alan Clark, Minister of State for Defence Procurement, announced the order in a debate on the Royal Air Force, said that the aircraft, known as T-10s, would meet the training requirements for those who were to fly the Harrier GR5 and GR7, and would have full operational capability.

Delivery of the first GR7, the

night version of the GR5, was expected later this year.

Opening the debate, Mr Clark said that the RAF was now recruiting women after the decision to have them as pilots, navigators and engineers, announced last July. The first year target was to have 25 women pilots, 10 navigators and 4 air engineers. Some had begun their training after selection on the same criteria as men.

Mr Michael McNair-Wilson (Newbury, C) asked if the women aircrew would be flying

transport aircraft only or would be used in a combat role.

Mr Clark said that he would have reservations about using women in a combat role, but that would have to be looked at as recruitment developed and women's skills as airmen were tested and evaluated.

Mr Allan Rogers, an Opposition spokesman on defence, said that it was a step forward that women were being trained to fly fast jets, but whether they should fly in combat was a matter for greater public discussion. He would have reservations about that.

Was the Government going to make some form of recompense to the junior ranks over poll tax? They could be facing a tenfold increase over the rates.

Mr Clark said the Government was looking at a new way of calculating the community charge to be paid by Service men. Under present proposals, no Serviceman would have a community charge liability greater than £1 above the national average.

# Lords will debate PR

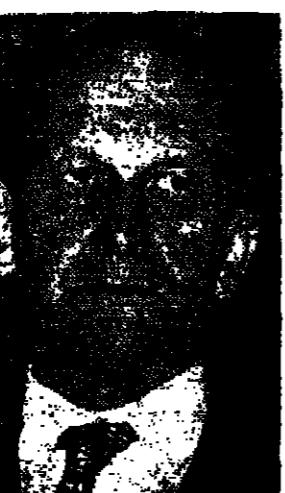
By Sheila Gunn  
Political Reporter

The House of Lords will be urged to reform the voting system so that all MEPs are elected by proportional representation.

A Bill introduced by the Democrat peer, Lord Bonham-Carter, would abolish Britain's isolation as the only nation to elect members of the European Parliament by the first-past-the-post method.

He predicted yesterday widespread support from the many conservative peers with strong European links, including Lord Tebbit, Lord Patten, Lord Scarfe and Lord Rennard.

The Government is opposed to the changes, nevertheless, a proportional representation system can operate for Northern Ireland's elections to the European Parliament to guarantee that the minority community in Ulster is



Lord Bonham-Carter: Predicts Tory support.

fairly represented at Strasbourg. The Treaty of Rome, he pointed out, calls for a sufficient electoral system throughout the Community. The European Parliament has a committee drawing up a framework for the most suitable form of electoral system to adopt.

His idea is for regional constituencies in Britain to return MEPs through a single transferable vote (STV) system of proportional representation. Electors would list their candidates in order of preference.

Last year, 45 Labour and 32 Conservative MEPs were elected, winning a total of 72.5 per cent of the vote. The Democrats and the Greens won no seats, although they polled more than 20 per cent of the vote.

A proportional representation system would ensure that the minority parties stood a better chance of being represented in the European Parliament.

The Bill will have a second reading debate in the Lords on Wednesday week.

## Legal Bill decision

An attempt to write into the Courts and Legal Services Bill a provision that solicitors could not enter into multi-disciplinary practices with other professions was rejected by a government majority of 18.

Lord Mishcon, Opposition spokesman, moving the amendment when report stage resumed in the Lords, said that if there were not such a provision there could be multi-disciplinary practices combining solicitors and barristers, bound by strict professional rules, with others such as surveyors and estate agents carrying on a perfectly honourable business, but in no way governed by the same strict professional disciplinary rules.

The Lord Chancellor (Lord Mackay of Clashfern) said that the Law Society would be making rules to protect the public.

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Mr Dennis Canavan: Conservative MPs voting for the poll tax are like turkeys voting for an early Christmas.

# Sunday post for whole country

The Post Office is to reintroduce Sunday collections throughout the country from this autumn. Lord Heseltine, Under Secretary of State, Environment, said in the Lords at question time.

Lord Williams of Elvel, for the Opposition, sought an assurance that that would not affect weekday services.

Lord Heseltine replied that the Post office was committed to an improvement in services, including those from Monday to Saturday.

Lord Kiwanuka said that yesterday he had received a letter posted on December 12, 1989.

## Parliament next week

The main business in the House of Commons next week is expected to be:

Monday: Aviation and Maritime Security Bill, remaining stages. Private Bills.

Tuesday: Debate on Opposition motion entitled: "The balance of payments deficit, high interest rates and the impact on industry".

Wednesday: Debate on members' interests.

Thursday: Food Safety Bill, second reading.

Friday: Private members' Bills: Entertainments (Increased Penalties) Bill and Representation of the People Bill, second readings.

The main business in the House of Lords is expected to be:

Monday: Coal Industry Bill, report. Property Services Agency and Crown Suppliers Bill, second reading. Debate on threats to Mr Salmon Ruskin.

Tuesday: Human Fertilization and Embryology Bill, report, first day.

Wednesday: Debates on Citizens Advice Bureau and on the pressure on NHS staff.

Thursday: Pensions (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill and Civil Aviation Authority (Borrowing Powers) Bill, committee stages. Government Trading Bill, second reading.

## Parliament today

Commons (9.30): Private members' Bills: Planning Permission (Demolition of Houses) Bill and Radiation Exposed Crown Employees (Benefits) Bill, second readings.

# Welsh Office to give £50,000 to storms disaster fund

## St DAVID'S DAY DEBATE

The Welsh Office is to make a donation of £50,000 to the disaster fund set up by the Mayor of Colwyn Bay to help the people of North Wales recover from this week's storms, Mr Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Wales, announced in the Commons.

If she was not concerned about losing the Mid-Suffolk by-election, and the resignation of the 18 councillors, she should listen to the increasing number of Conservative MPs who were beginning to realize that by voting for the poll tax they were like turkeys voting for an early Christmas.

Mr Dennis Canavan (Falkirk West, Lab) asked when the Prime Minister was going to give up the fact that she and her poll tax would be defeated by a combination of people power in Scotland and deepening electoral unpopularity in England and Wales.

Mr Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Wales, announced in the Commons.

from the flooding. British Rail would have the resources to do whatever repair work was required on sea defences and maintenance. They would be discussing the situation with Mr Cecil Parkinson, Secretary of State for Transport.

The emergence of new businesses in Wales had been encouraging, despite the loss of 58,000 jobs in the steel and coal industries during the 1980s.

Unemployment had been falling and his objective was to reduce it to below the level at present in the South-east.

Wales had the greatest concentration of

Japanese investment in Europe and the latest investment by Toyota would bring

other companies to the principality. In the 1990s, Wales would be one of the most prosperous and successful regions of Europe.

Mr Barry Jones, chief Opposition spokesman on Wales, said that there was much in the principality that was going badly wrong.

Nothing short of a skill revolution was needed if Britain and Wales were to compete in 1992, but only last month four skill centres in Wales were closed and there was no sign of the Government's determination to close the gap. Without that revolution, we should be left far behind.

Mr Keith Reuben (Delyn, C) criticized the three-month delay in setting up an internal review after a salmonella outbreak in his constituency last July in which more than 400 people became ill and at least two died.

Mr Barry Jones, chief Opposition spokesman on Wales, said that there was much in the principality that was going badly wrong.

Mr Keith Reuben (Delyn, C) criticized the three-month delay in setting up an internal review after a salmonella outbreak in his constituency last July in which more than 400 people became ill and at least two died.

Justice Hughes (who led an inquiry into the affair) had said that all the papers concerning Kincora had not been made available to him.

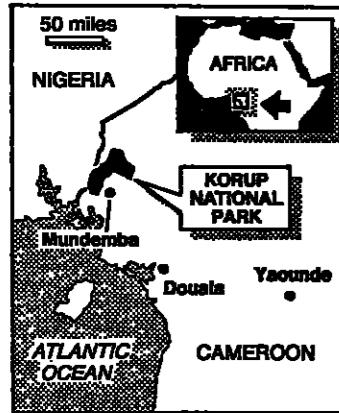
Mr Cope said that he would consider Mr McNamara's point. But it did not change what he had said.

The Rev Martin Smyth (Belfast, South, UUP) asked if Mr Cope knew of the claims that Mr

Justice Hughes (who led an inquiry into the affair) had

# An axe over nature's nursery

Alan Franks  
reports from  
Cameroon, where  
the virgin rain  
forest is providing  
a conservation  
model for the  
world. But will  
loggers let it  
survive?



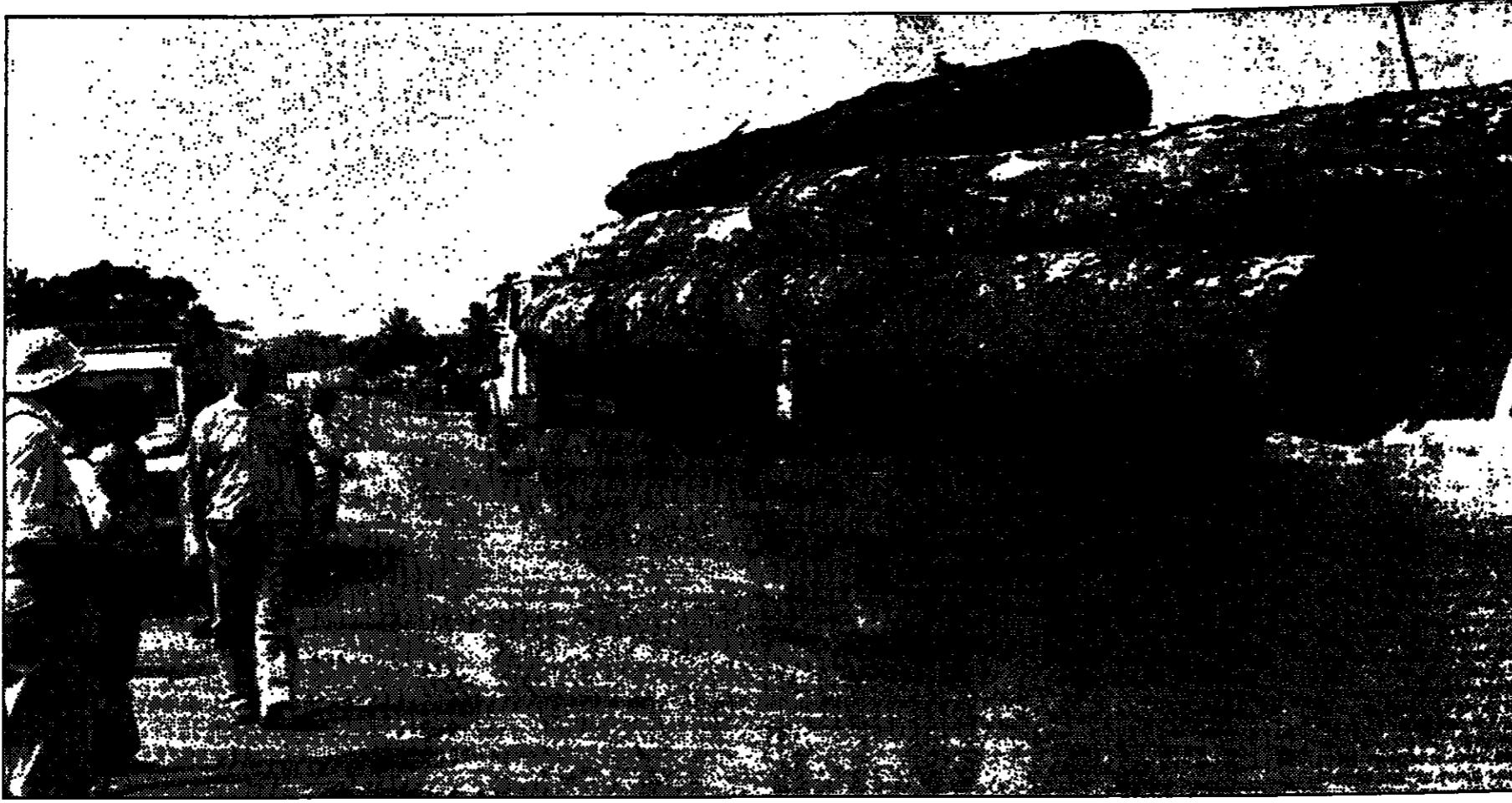
When the Prince of Wales visits the troubled republic of Cameroon in West Africa later this month, he will find a country whose tribal occupants are dancing a grim life-and-death ballet with the lumber industry.

Cameroon is home to the Korup, the world's oldest tract of virgin rainforest, now in mortal danger from the 260 million-a-year activities of major European timber companies.

Under threat, too, is a British-led rescue operation which embodies the Prince's survival blueprint for the forests of the Third World, seen by scientists as immensely important to the future of medicinal research.

The 250,000 acres of Korup, designated a national park four years ago, and containing more than 3,000 species of rare plant and 25 per cent of the world's known primate types, are becoming the arena for a race against time as the land-hungry loggers claw their way to the edges of the forest.

The Surrey-based World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), which is orchestrating the rescue mission with the Cameroon government, has appealed to the Prince to visit the forest during his visit, but the request has been turned down by Buckingham Palace on the grounds that only helicopters belonging to the Queen's Flight are considered suitable for his use.



Vanishing forest: Mr Clive Wicks, who oversees British conservation, watches a load of logs trucked away

## INSIDE THE MEDICINE CHEST

Many of the 3,000 plant species found in Korup have traditionally been used by its inhabitants for medicinal purposes. One of the aims of preserving the forest is to harness their potential for the development of drugs and remedies. For example, the leaves and roots of several of the Malva and Hibiscus family are used by tribesmen as poultices, and taken internally for coughs and urinary disorders. The twigs of the African willow, *Salix Capensis*, contain the substance salicin, which is used for the treatment of rheumatism by traditional doctors all over Africa. Such as those found in henbane (*Hyoscyamus*) and thorn apple (*Datura*), are used for the relief of pain and insomnia, while others, like caffeine from *Cola*, stimulate the

brain or spinal cord and relieve nervous depression. So far, 90 naturally-produced chemical substances have been identified in Korup, 38 of which are new to medical science, and are to be examined at laboratories in Yaounde to assess their medicinal potential.

The exploitation of these "forest medicines" is intended in the short term to reduce Cameroon's dependence on imported pharmaceuticals. The longer-term goal is to conduct a programme, based near Korup, of laboratory tests and field trials of natural products. This will also focus on the selection of superior genetic material for cloning, leading to the development of more disease-resistant plants for cultivation.

villains of the piece — but they are acting with the tacit compliance of the Government in the capital, Yaounde. Last year the Government, which is led by president Mr Paul Biya, granted 150 logging licences, some in the buffer zones which still do not enjoy the legal protection given to the Korup. At present, 23 of these are being operated by Cameroonian concerns, while the rest are sublet to overseas firms, most of which are French. It is an open secret that a large proportion of the companies are not paying their government taxes. M. Christian Varmer, local manager of operations for the French Société d'Exploitation des Bois Camerouniennes, concedes that some have arrears of up to 10 years.

His company works a 26,000-hectare tract in one of the buffer zones, on a concession originally granted to the Cameroon-based CTL, and subsequently sublet. The chairman of CTL is Mr Nzo Ekangaki, a former secretary-general of the Organization of African Unity, and now an adviser to the president. Another firm from the south-west of the country, Fako Timber Industries, has sought permission to log on another buffer zone, a large parcel of land in the Toko area, adjacent to the national park. And a German company, Timber Industries (Cameroon), owned by Hans O. Lutkens of Hamburg, has applied for an exploration licence for a tract which actually includes part of the park. Although it seems

inconceivable that this last bid will succeed, its preparation is a measure of the companies' audacity.

Many companies are acting in complete disregard of the Government's own *cahier*, or rule-book, which stipulates that timber exploiters should not fell or destroy trees which form part of the economic crop structure of the neighbouring communities. None of these communities receives any financial benefit from the logging operations. Five years ago the government brought to an end the arrangement by which the companies undertook to help local villages with the building of schools and other facilities.

The Société d'Exploitation has caused an uproar among the local

village chiefs, who claim it has knocked out invaluable stocks of the Njabe tree, the bark of which produces an oil that the villagers use in cooking. In the small town of Mundemba, five miles from the park's southern border, logging has aroused the anger of the 300-year-old Ekpe leopard cult, the masonic social structure which has played a traditional part in the community affairs of rural Cameroon and parts of Nigeria. Recently one of the cult's elders went to the front door of a logging boss to declare an Ekpe curse on tre

Meanwhile, in the country's principal port of Duala, from which the forest hardwoods are exported to EC nations, including Britain, the logs are beginning to accumulate in unshipped piles as importing nations register their disquiet about the pillage in the interior.

This whole drama is playing itself out against the extraordinary backdrop of a country seeking membership of the British Commonwealth nearly 30 years after it moved to independence from the status of Anglo-French condominium which had obtained since the Germans lost possession at the close of the First World War. It also comes at a time when the Rome-based international body ITAP (Tropical Forest Action Plan) wants to see Cameroon's quota of protected forests rise from 5 per cent of the land surface to 20 per cent. While the minority community of Eng-

lish speakers — about one fifth of the 11 million population — welcomes the renewed assistance of the British, there are members of the French-speaking community who see it as a symptom of neo-colonialism or even some latterday missionary ethic.

The efforts of the British team of young rural development advisers, who spend weeks in villages several days' walk from their base in Mundemba, are overseen by WWF's senior conservation and development executive, Mr Clive Wicks, a former parachute officer and old Africa hand of 30 years standing.

If things were to get worse, Mr Wicks would not hesitate to invoke the influence of the Duke of Edinburgh. For the Prince's father is not only president of WWF, he is also passionately keen to see Korup form a larger regional area of conservation with the Oban Hills across the Nigerian border. These projects form the flagship of Britain's contribution to the greening of Africa, and have been launched along a course hitherto untried. Again, if this founders, what price the lesser vessels?

After a week in the region, two strong images of dereliction endure. The first is the rubble of Unilever's bankrupt palm oil plantation at Ndian, and the rusting hulls of the cargo boats which were the sole means of transport in the days when the road gave out at Ekondo Titi, 20 miles to the south. They lie there like vast toys gathering rust in the garden. Two years ago the company left the plantation, which had employed 700 staff, in the hands of the liquidator.

The second image is a natural counterpart. Just north of a struggling village called Mete, half a day's walk from Mundemba, stands a majestic waterfall — or rather the size of a waterfall. Today the ribbon has thinned to a thread as the waters higher up in the catchment have been stemmed by over-logging of the land, for the oxygen emitted by the trees of the forest is an integral part of the rain cycle. Much more of this and the ecosystem, and with it the human economy, will be destroyed. The crayfish will perish and would never be replaced other than by artificial stocking, which is considered uncertain and prohibitively expensive. With them would perish the vital fisheries in the mangrove swamps at the mouth of the Rio del Rey. Like the rest of the battles raging in and around Korup, this one will not be won and lost at some comfortable distance point in the next century, but in the next four or five years.

The question now is whether a forest whose essence is its history will be allowed new life as a genetic nursery, or whether it is to be vandalized before the child is walking.

## The woman who invented *perestroika*

Tatyana Zaslavskaya risked her freedom to denounce the Soviet economic planners. Now she is one of Gorbachov's closest advisers

**A**s *glasnost* does not yet extend to embrace the gossip columnist and the concept of a Nikolai Dempsterov, it is unknown, the reaction of any group of Russian intellectuals to a reference to the "other woman" in Mikhail Gorbachov's life is a mystery. More likely they would break into applause.

The motherly Tatyana Zaslavskaya is a *femme fatale* only in the sense that the ideas she first dared to express marked her down as an arch enemy of the dying dictatorship, made her identifiable as a pioneer of *perestroika*, and elevated what she says now to first importance.

Among the things she says is that Mr Gorbachov has perhaps a year to kick-start a new and obvious improvement in the lives of ordinary Russians, that the West could, and should, help with immediate aid... boots, gloves, meat and milk products". And that neither we nor they should rule out a fearful and forceful reaction from the forces of the old regime before an inevitable triumph for the "Second Socialist Revolution".

This is also the title of her latest book, it is that which brings this brilliant academic among us now, talking quietly about her hopes and fears and modestly declaring that although a member of Mr Gorbachov's inner cabinet of advisers, and director of the USSR's Centre for the Study of Public Opinion — which gives her a unique bifocal view of Soviet society — she remains "merely one scientist, able to give just a personal view".

Yet Professor Teodor Shanin, a sociologist at Manchester University



Forecast: Tatyana Zaslavskaya says Gorbachov has perhaps a year to improve the lives of ordinary Russians

scientist and had to be signed for by him the general Soviet public was not permitted to know.

"But it is not right to say I gave new ideas. Every major scientist had been thinking this way. All I did was to sow seeds in prepared ground. And I was speaking from observation. I had been an economist, working at my desk on 'pure' economic theories. Then, in 1966, I became a sociologist and made many expeditions to rural communities in Siberia, as well as to the rural elite of the collectives. Now I knew that the theories were worthless. For the Soviet people life was a failure. Their dissatisfaction was rising and would not be contained."

She could not have predicted how that Siberian snowball, once set rolling, would sweep on to all the margins of the Soviet empire. "I did not predict. No one could predict. I have never seen a paper anywhere that imagined the phenomena of this year, to say that Soviet workers would blockade the railways, that miners would strike, that people would pull down the fences at the frontiers and so on... to such suggestions any scientist would have laughed."

But the snowball could not be controlled, and now the world looks on at incipient chaos. "Yes, yes. These are all the results of the independent behavior of people. It

"She is one of the most influential women in the USSR; she invented the language of change long before it was safe to do so"

is impossible to have *perestroika* without much activity from below. We cannot have a clean and obedient society if we want active people; there is no way to free only the good people and keep chains on the bad. What we see is not civilization, but it is a necessary stage."

With the union coming apart at its seams, the monopoly of the Communist Party under challenge, was Mrs Zaslavskaya not a little afraid of a strong reaction from the old guard? "That is a real danger. The democratic movement is stronger but it is not united nor as cohesive as the old regime, which has in its hands all the forces and all the apparatus of government. It is important, therefore, that democracy succeed in the elections at all levels in the next weeks. Then they can change the personnel of the state apparatus and hold the mechanisms of change."

Surveys by her centre, the MORI of Mother Russia, help provide glimpses of public opinion. "One survey showed that the US is the first country Russians want to visit, and have export business with. Our Man of the Year last year was, naturally, Gorbachov. With 56 per cent. Second was Ronald Reagan with 30 per cent. In the Woman of the Year, first place was Margaret Thatcher with 25.5 per cent. Raisa Gorbachov was second. With 5.3 per cent."

Such intriguing human snippets are rare in Mrs Zaslavskaya's book, which seemed not long on optimism. Is Russia's future that of anarchy or advance? "In the short term? This is the decisive year. It will depend on our own activity. If we can see that the democratic way will be chosen then the new Soviet will be peaceful and legal. But if the extreme right [by which she means the extreme left] is forceful and reactive, then this will be only for a time. In all cases it will be impossible to go back to the old Soviet Union. The people everywhere are ready to fight. Now they are awake," said the woman who had first woken them.

Brian James



Till death us do part: when Rembrandt painted "The Jewish Wedding" in the 17th century, were the classic themes of marriage any different from today's?

## Married to her work

What qualifies a woman to compile a volume of reflections on marriage? Libby Purves finds out

**N**ot every young man is sure that marriage is a good idea. In 1837 the 28-year-old Charles Darwin grabbed a pencil and scribbled out a list of pros and cons in favour he found: "Children (if I please God) - constant companion (friend in old age) who will feel interested in one, object to be beloved and played with - better than a dog anyhow - Home, and someone to take care of house - Charms of music and female chit-chat. These things good for one's health. Forced to visit and receive relations but terrible loss of time."

Further tormented, he moved to the advantages of not marrying: "Not forced to visit relatives, and to bend in every trifles - to have the expense and anxiety of children - perhaps quarrelling... less money for books etc."

Women have misgivings too. D.H. Lawrence's *Women in Love* had problems long before Germaine Greer. "Imagine" said Ursula, "any man one knows, imagine him coming home in one every evening, and saying 'Hello, and giving one a kiss.' There was a blank pause. 'Yes' said Gudrun in a narrowed voice. 'It's just impossible. The man makes it impossible.'"

Both passages come from the new *Oxford Book of Marriage*, edited with mischievous good humour by Helge Rubinstein. She has been married for 35 years and working as a marriage counselor for 20, and was repeatedly invited to write a "sort of Dr Spock on marriage. But I couldn't bear to. It would have been presumptuous, and far too simplistic. My husband hates me saying it, but this book is a cop-out from doing that." It represents four years' work, however, gathering po-

etry and prose from Euripides to Betty Friedan and from idylls to Awful Warnings, and it probably holds a lot more enlightenment than any number of wordy treatises on how to stay married.

Helge Rubinstein hopes so. "I was not looking for eccentric marriages, like Harold Nicolson and Vita Sackville-West, and I completely rejected all those rather cynical aphorisms like 'Marry in haste, repent at leisure'. They only contain partial truths."

She has not, however, been able to resist wisecracks like Samuel Butler's "How good of God to let the Carlyles marry each other, and so make only two people miserable instead of four", or Sir James Goldsmith's observation that "when you marry your mistress you automatically create a vacancy". But on the whole, the book follows classic themes of marriage decisions, proposals, making love, children, ageing and bereavement, with fiery accounts of adultery, divorce, misery and murder. Helge admits to some difficulty in keeping down the amount of Tolstoy, D.H. Lawrence, Alison Lurie and Erich Fromm - "they said almost everything" - but found room for Urs's proposal from *Cold Comfort Farm*: "Come, my beauty - my handful of dirt. I must carry thee up to Tickleypenny's and show thee to the water-voles."

At this point Helge's husband of 35 years, Hilary Rubinstein, appears cautiously around the door, having agreed to a joint interview despite his conviction that it would probably lead to divorce. He is a literary agent of legendary energy and shame-

less diversity, whose stable includes authors as diverse as Edwin Currie and Nadine Gordimer. His marriage stemmed indirectly from an incident when Shirley Williams' dog bit a postman in the 1940s. "My father sent me to the West London police court because he said I might be amused to see Vera Britain's daughter, aged 16, pleading like a young Boris in defence of her dog." This sparked off a friendship with Shirley, and hence a few years later with her flatmate, a German girl called Helge Kitzinger whose family had fled from Hitler in 1939. They met at Easter and married in August.

"I have a view," says Hilary, "that one should not make the decision to marry unless it is absolutely irresistible. It was." Helge is continually fascinated by the modern young - including one of her own sons - who live together and have babies outside marriage. "I constantly ask them why it would be different to be married. They all say that it just is, but can't explain why."

Helge and Shirley (who was marrying Bernard Williams at

the same time) cooked up a plan to dilute the dose a little. "We decided to have a huge house together and all the children upstairs and share a nanny. When I broke this to Hilary, he turned green." However, they did it, the two families sharing a vast establishment for 17 years. The Williams's marriage did not endure; the Rubinstines did. To this day, Helge and Hilary have a reputation among their troubled friends for being the best refuge possible in times of divorce. Having lived through the free-loving Sixties and Seventies, their views on infidelity, strictly other people's - do diverge a little: talking of extra-marital affairs, Hilary advanced the view that there are marriages which "can cope with it", whereas Helge stoutly maintains that "the relationship always pays a price".

Becoming a marriage counselor and sex therapist was, for Helge, an enhancement of her own marriage. "But it is a classic make-or-break. Some people become counselors and then their own marriage fails because they see too clearly what is wrong with it. But being a counselor can help; you learn about yourself, and about how to negotiate." Hilary withdrew from this discussion, with a marked masculine distaste for emotional analysis, and went to find a bottle of wine.

Helge was leafing through her book again. "Marriage is one long conversation, chequered by disputes..." She read from Robert Louis Stevenson, squinting in the London evening gloom, and Hilary tossed his own reading-glasses across with accustomed affability.

state of the rainforest: Varta will be donating all call charge proceeds to the fund. For further details of the RFs, write to 5 Fitzroy Lodge, The Grove, London N6 5JU.

### Whiter whites

A complaint lodged against some environmentally friendly washing powders is that they wash greyer. Now, Ecover has been reformulated to combat the problem: to white washes, you add a small amount of Alternative Bleach. Most powders use perborate bleach, which deposits boron in the environment and can damage water plants. Ecover's system uses safe percarbonate bleach, with no environmental side effects. The powder and bleach are available from health food shops and large multiple grocers, starting at £1.95 for 1kg.

### Safe beauty

Varta, Europe's largest battery manufacturer (offering mercury and cadmium-free batteries as well as recyclables), has already given £5,000 to the Rainforest Foundation (RF), to pay for medical supplies urgently needed by the Yanomami Indians. Now, for every special rainforest pack of batteries sold, a further penny will go to help the charity's work in Brazil. From Onday, with the help of Sting, the RF co-founder, a new phone link on 0898 55665 will regularly update callers on the

## Tyranny - down but perhaps not out

A very earnest young man on television this week implored me not to "gloat" over the results of the Nicaraguan election. He had those teeny wire-rimmed glasses, and his hair was combed back as if he were Robert Redford playing Jay Gatsby. I suppose he was from Harvard or Yale. He assured me that President Bush was not "gloating" over the results, which seemed to me an awful waste of being right. Surely, he and Mrs Bush allowed themselves a five-minute session of crowing in their breakfast nook before putting on the faux pearls and *gravitas*?

One wonders at what shrine the left will worship now? My sister is taking her three children on a holiday to Cuba next week. "I want them to see a Stalinist regime," she said, packing the mosquito repellent and Instamatic camera.

I kept my mouth shut about the Nicaraguan election. Even while confidently predicting events in every corner of the USSR, I wrote not a word about Mr Ortega's chances of becoming democratically elected. Latin America simply isn't my beat. My commentary on Nicaraguan affairs has been limited to recounting the obvious. I was particularly astonished by the flagrant economic corruption of the regime. The Sandinistas created a system in which virtually every activity, from selling bread to fixing a blocked drain, required a licence issued - and sold - by the government. This enabled patronage to be extended on a scale that made feudalism look positively enlightened.

Incidentally, if you want to read a very telling account of the Sandinista regime, get hold of a copy of the book by Jaime Chamorro Cardenal, one of the sons of Violeta de Chamorro. *La Prensa: The Republic of Paper*, (Freedom House, New York) gives a remarkable insight into the intimidation and thuggery of the Sandinistas.

What is most interesting are the accounts of Sandinista-organized visits for foreigners to *La Prensa* - the newspaper that Violeta de Chamorro headed after the assassination of her husband, the publisher - intended to demonstrate that free speech was alive and well. The groups, writes Mr Chamorro, generally believed what they wanted to believe. On one occasion, the president of the Independent Liberal Party (and previously



**BARBARA AMIEL**

minister of labour for four years in the Sandinista government) told a group of foreign visitors that the Sandinista television show *De Cara al Pueblo*, in which ordinary citizens supposedly asked questions of Sandinista leaders, was arranged beforehand. A newly arrived tourist got up and shouted: "That's a lie!" I wondered if it was Jane Fonda or Glengarry Kinross.

It is not yet against the law

for newspaper columnists to

write about subjects of which

they know nothing. But since

everyone down there in Nicara-

agua was predicting a San-

dinista victory, I simply

assumed they must know

something that I did not. Now

the question now is, having asked the people what they wanted, will the Sandinistas abide by the answer? This question haunts us from Lithuania to Managua and the answer is still unclear. Marxism-Leninism may be dead, but is tyranny? The brand new powers for which Mr Gorbachov is asking are not derived from Communism, they are parallel to it. I suppose the best analogy is the French Revolution. Gorbachov is not emerging, as Robespierre, Danton and Marat did, from the Revolution. While one cannot yet draw the parallel with any degree of assurance, Mr Gorbachov may be a Napoleon on an entirely new tack. His powers are to be personal, not derived from the Communist Party any more than Napoleon's were derived from the Jacobins or the *sans-culottes*. We shall see.

Meanwhile, the Americans are being blamed for the problem of dismantling the Contras, which only goes to show how short our memories are. The Americans did not invent the Contras, they merely supported them. Though the Contras may have contained some very nasty Somoza elements, many of them were ex-Sandinistas with no illusions about the tyranny they were fighting. The Americans, after all, supported the Sandinistas economically, before they began a systematic destruction of the country's economy... but, oh, why repeat this all again? Let's all just gloat, a minute or two, before blind envy descends and blinkers the world once more.

that it turned out the way it did, it seems rather inevitable. On the other hand, I was not surprised that Daniel Ortega called an election. Having utterly ruined his country's economy and faced with a Soviet Union that would no longer bankroll him, he probably had no choice. His only chance was to win an election, thereby legitimizing himself with the West and giving liberals in the United States a chance to re-finance him.

I suppose General Ortega

may have swallowed his own propaganda and believed in his popularity. After all, he managed to do better than any Communist regime anywhere else might do. No communist party in Eastern Europe would



## HELP ONE CONQUEST LEAD TO ANOTHER

In March, Sir Randolph Fiennes and his team will attempt to conquer one of the last great challenges left to man. Or rather two of them.

They are aiming to walk unassisted to the North Pole, and in doing so, hope to raise £2 million to help the Multiple Sclerosis Society in its urgent quest for a cure.

80,000 people in this country have the disease which, as you may be aware, devastates the central nervous system and can strike anyone at any time.

At the moment there

are no known causes and no known cure. £2 million, however, would treat at a British university a research department devoted exclusively to Multiple Sclerosis.

Your help therefore is urgently needed. For although these men have pledged their intention to walk unassisted, please make sure they don't.

For further information, post the coupon or call 0898 666600. (Calls charged at 25p per minute, cheap rate, or 38p per minute at all other times.) Or to make a donation, call into any branch of the Midland Bank.

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## ECOSPHERE



News on environmental issues

## Rubbish on show

It had to happen: the world's first garbage museum has opened, in the American state of New Jersey. With displays created by local artists who had the messy task of rummaging through dustbins for raw materials, the museum's exhibits show how the world's mountain of rubbish is building up, and what we can all do to help. Fourteen thousand local schoolchildren are expected to visit this year.

## Battery trees

Varta, Europe's largest battery manufacturer (offering mercury and cadmium-free batteries as well as recyclables), has already given £5,000 to the Rainforest Foundation (RF), to pay for medical supplies urgently needed by the Yanomami Indians. Now, for every special rainforest pack of batteries sold, a further penny will go to help the charity's work in Brazil. From Onday, with the help of Sting, the RF co-founder, a new phone link on 0898 55665 will regularly update callers on the

Josephine Fairley



# TIMES DIARY

NIGEL WILLIAMSON

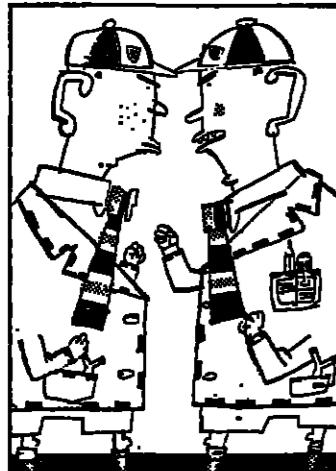
The Conservative Party is going to extraordinary lengths to attract the votes of the 3,000 British residents overseas who are eligible to participate in parliamentary elections but have so far failed to register. An "action checklist" to Tory constituency associations from the Conservatives Abroad Department reminds them of the importance of such voters in marginal seats and suggests some novel ways of getting in touch. For instance, why not request names and addresses from "local removal companies which specialize in shipping goods and furniture for people who go abroad", or "local firms who might be sending representatives abroad". There are other ruses. Party members have been instructed that on no account should they throw away Christmas cards from overseas before extracting all names and addresses for forwarding to Central Office. And why should the Tories think that overseas voters are such fertile ground? They are just about the only major group of electors who are not eligible for the poll tax.

A stuttering start to the Mid Staffordshire by-election campaign. Labour has booked a local school for its candidate, Sylvia Heal, to hold her morning press conferences. Good move, you might think, as education cuts are surely a vote-winner for Labour. The problem is that the school was closed five years ago — by the local Labour council. The Lib Dems report that their only setback to date is the one gentleman who refused to sign their anti-poll tax petition. He turned out to be a bailiff looking forward to the extra work.

You don't have to be touched to serve in Mrs Thatcher's Cabinet but it obviously helps. A Cabinet minister recently boarded a London-bound train after a speech in Liverpool, only to find carriage after carriage offering nothing but standing room. Eventually he found an empty compartment labelled "Reserved for Runcorn Mental Hospital" and took a seat. Shortly after, a group of patients boarded and seated themselves around him, whereupon the accompanying nurse started to count his charges. After he got to three he spotted the interloper and demanded to know his identity. The seat-stealer owned up to being John Wakeham, the Secretary of State for Energy. "Four," continued the nurse without pause, "five, six..."

Labour MP Austin Mitchell has asked the Department of Trade and Industry no fewer than 160 questions in the past three months. But just what is the cost to the taxpayer of satisfying Mitchell's insatiable curiosity, asks Tory backbencher Philip Oppenheim in a written parliamentary question. Nicholas Ridley, the Secretary of State, says it is between £10,000 and £20,000. But Mitchell is unrepentant. "It seems an awful lot of money to get lost", which all that most of the answers have said, "he says. He now wants to know if the figure has been audited — and what the cost would be if the department could be bothered to give him proper answers.

BARRY FANTON I



"Yeah, well I bet my dad pays more poll tax than yours"

Those Tory conciliators who thought that Mrs Thatcher's presence at Ted Heath's fortieth anniversary party last week might herald a healing of their feud are in for a disappointment. I gather that Mrs Thatcher was asked to speak at the lunch but refused, no doubt finding her required presence painful enough without having to offer insincere words of praise to her most persistent critic. Heath is said to be deeply wounded by the refusal and, if such a thing is possible, an increase in the vitriol quotient can be expected.

This must be a first. The Commons committee hearing witnesses on the Cardiff Bay Barrage Bill in South Glamorgan county hall yesterday had evidence warbled to it by the folk-singer Dave Burns, giving a rendition of his song "Grangetown Gondolier", opposing the Bill. Parliamentary rules do not allow the submission of records, tapes or videos in evidence, but there is nothing against live performances.

Better men than I will get the plums, of course. That is only fair. That is only cricket. You would not expect a lifetime batting average of 4.7 to pull a major monarchy, particularly given that a number of the more impressive scores were made on sand. I recall 38 at Clacton one year, though admittedly that included a chance to the old lady at second slip when I was still in single figures, and if she hadn't been gobbling a chocolate at the time, history would tell a very different tale.

C.B. Fry's average, you may recall, was standing at 50.22 when they offered him the throne of Albania, including 94 centuries; all, as I understand it, on grass, and most of them while he was concurrently holding not only his place in the England soccer squad but also the world long-jump record. God knows how Zog beat him to throne, probably got so far

First Chris Patten and now Cecil Parkinson have affirmed the change. The Government's national road traffic forecasts are no longer government policy.

Ever since the A55 inquiry at Llandudno in 1975, all discussion of the wisdom of planning on the basis of the national traffic forecasts has been prohibited at public inquiries. At that inquiry, the government insisted that its forecasts were its policy, and that the merits of policy could not be questioned at a public inquiry. It defended this position through the courts to the House of Lords, where it argued that "the traffic forecasts were government policy in themselves; or alternatively that it was Government policy that they should be accepted; and on this account cross-examination should not be allowed."

Since then, the Government (or rather the Department of Transport on behalf of both Labour and Conservative governments) has operated a predict-and-provide policy. It has fed its traffic assignment models with growth factors from the national traffic forecasts, and then applied highway design standards to produce the roads necessary to carry the forecast traffic. Many billions of pounds'

worth of road building has been justified on this basis.

Now we are told that "it is not possible or desirable to meet forecast levels of demand. They are not a target or option which the department has set itself the objectives of achieving." This raises a question that urgently needs an answer. What level of traffic is desirable? An answer is needed urgently, because a further £12.4 billion of public money is in the process of being spent, on the basis of the old predict-and-provide policy.

Mr Patten, the Environment Secretary, has described the consequences of the Department of Transport's most recent forecasts as "unacceptable". Mr Parkinson, the Transport Secretary, refuses to endorse this view, saying simply that "he and I are working through the figures together". The discrepancy is clear: the Government's new programme might add 2 per cent to the capacity of the nation's road network — to accommodate

a forecast increase in traffic of 142 per cent.

Clearly the forecasts can no longer be described as government policy, and the question of their status is likely to end up in court. Objectors to the Henlys Corner scheme in north London have recently demanded that their inquiry be reopened; they claim that the policy justification for the scheme no longer exists. Objectors to the Twyford Down scheme are also threatening legal action.

Now that the forecasts have been declared unacceptable by the Secretary of State for the Environment, the case for reviewing the schemes looks irresistible.

In planning a road system one is obliged to take a view about the future. Until recently, the official view has been that the

Government that this was neither possible nor desirable. Their pleasure in having the merits of their case belatedly acknowledged is limited, because the justification now being offered for road building is even less credible.

Mr Parkinson tells us that he is making a contribution to environmental protection by building more bypasses to take traffic out of towns and villages. Meanwhile he still hangs on about the freedom to own and use cars. If this freedom is fully exercised, in due course there will be, according to his own department's forecasts, about two-and-a-half times as much traffic on the nation's roads as now. Bypassing the most congested parts of the road network simply relaxes an effective constraint on growth.

There are, of course, alternatives to restraint by congestion. Electronic road pricing is currently a favourite proposal. Unfortunately, if overall growth in traffic is not curbed, pricing

provide the level of motorized mobility that people have been encouraged to view as their entitlement. The world neither has the energy to sustain it, the space to accommodate it without damage to natural and built environments, nor the atmospheric sinks to absorb emissions.

The increasing acceptance of this last constraint adds a global dimension to transport planning in developed countries such as Britain. The world's vehicle population is a major contributor to the greenhouse effect. Most cars are in the developed countries: more in Los Angeles alone than in China, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Indonesia combined. But the faster growth rates — almost four times faster — are found in the Third World.

Traffic must be restrained everywhere, not just in cities. The Commons Transport Committee report, *Roads for the Future*, welcoming increased spending on roads, shows that this is a nettle that non-green politicians are reluctant to grasp. Their reluctance stems not from the absence of methods of restraint — increased taxes on cars and petrol would do it — but from the need to confront an awkward fact: that the world does not have the capacity to

with the backing of the leaders of the front-line states.

What has attracted most attention in the Western media about the Lusaka talks has been Mr Mandela's refusal to suspend the ANC's "war" against the South African state. That issue has very little substance, since the war has always been mostly a pretence. What must really preoccupy the ANC leadership in the closed sessions in Lusaka is the real and bloody war going on in Nama, mainly between Xhosa and Zulu, with the sanction of the exiled ANC leadership.

It is an issue of great significance for the future of a democratic South Africa. Mr Mandela's vision of the future is a magnanimous one, with a place in it for people who have in the past opposed the ANC. As the hardliners look forward to the punishment of "collaborators", Mr Buthelezi and his Zulus become the test-case. And this issue comes close to the Mandelas personally. Winnie Mandela's father, the Pondo chief, Kokane, is a member of the council of perhaps the most prominent of the "collaborators", Kaiser Matanzima of the Transkei. Winnie Mandela, while rejecting her father's politics, has refused to break with him personally. Rejecting such distinctions, the hardliners have done their best to discredit Mrs Mandela. By walking out of prison hand-in-hand with her, Nelson Mandela silently rebutted that campaign of calumny.

In short, both Mr de Klerk and Mr Mandela are threatened, not only across the racial divide, but by forces within their own communities. Neither man can help the other, much though both may wish to. Nor can we in the West help Mr Mandela; eulogies in our Press may do him more harm than good. But we in the West can help or harm Mr de Klerk. In choosing which to do, we should remember that if he falls, the vision of Nelson Mandela will not come to fruition in his lifetime. That is the vital point which the British Labour Party is missing.



other blacks. Last Sunday, displaying immense courage, he went to Durban, where he addressed a huge ANC rally and told it of the need for peace with Mr Buthelezi's Inkatha, with which ANC people, encouraged by the leadership in exile, have been carrying on a war costing thousands of lives. Mr Mandela told them to throw away their weapons. He said: "We extend the hand of peace to Inkatha and hope that it may be possible for us to share a platform with Buthelezi." At this point, according to a Reuter report, Mr

Mandela "was forced to stop his speech when sections of the crowd jeered and whistled at his calls for conciliation".

It is significant that Mr

Mandela made that intrepid speech in Durban before going to Lusaka for his first meeting with the exiled ANC leadership, some of whom are certainly more in sympathy with those who jeered and whistled than with his calls for conciliation.

There has now to be a showdown within the ANC on this important issue. Fortunately, Mr

Mandela is well placed to win,

Cyprriot ferry that was attacked by the Syrians last week refused rescue by the RAF. No thoughts then of isolation, or of being without influence.

Nor is it just Britain's military protection that is so highly sought after. There is more than one hand outstretched, ready to take economic aid from this ridiculed country. Not many nations in Africa or Asia have rejected it. Most plead for more, all the time.

Eastern Europe has joined the queue, and has not gone without. Poor "marginalized" Britain has already handed out £50 million to Poland, with more on the way, and £25 million to Hungary. More is promised to other Eastern European countries once they have shown they are firmly committed to reform.

Neither Britain nor its Prime Minister is isolated or without influence. But Mrs Thatcher speaks unpalatable truths, while others prefer the safety of hiding behind her skirts and the comfort of well-worn hypocrisy.

Neil Kinnock was reported this week as having said that those who favour some relaxation of sanctions against South Africa in present circumstances are appearing the South African Conservatives and neo-Nazis, just as Hitler was ap-peared in the 1930s.

All analogies, of their nature, are defective in some degree, but this one is inept in the extreme.

The head of the South African government is not some neo-Nazi, but the reformer F.W. de Klerk.

Those who favour some

relaxation of sanctions are not

trying to placate the extreme

right in South Africa, but to frus-

trate it, by strengthening the

politician whom it most hates

and whom it is trying, with consider-

able hope of success, to destroy.

If a German analogy is needed,

there is an appropriate one. It

concerns the early days of the

Weimar Republic. In those days,

some warned that the continuing

pressure on Germany, through

implementation of the punitive

clauses of the Versailles Treaty,

would discredit the Weimar

Republic and play into the hands

of the far right, among whom

Adolf Hitler was already an

agitator. That warning was well-

founded. So also are the present

warnings about weakening Mr

de Klerk and strengthening the

United States?

Contrary to a suggestion

made, rather tentatively, on this

page on Tuesday by Gerald

Kaufman, I am not trying to help

Mr de Klerk to "get away with

less". What I want to see in

South Africa is what the ANC

and the British Labour Party

want to see: non-racial elections

I want to see.

Four years ago, at Stellen-

bosch University, I talked with an Afrikaner political scientist

who has close contacts with the

South African Defence Force. I

want to see what the ANC

wants to see.

It is significant that

Mr de Klerk and his colleagues

seem to have hoped that he would

agree to a settlement involving

less than a transition of power,

and that his towering prestige

would make that settlement

acceptable to blacks. These

hopes seem certain to be dashed.

It is true that Mr Mandela is,

in some important respects,

more moderate than some other

elements in the ANC. But his

moderation does not extend to a

willingness to accept less than

full non-racial democracy in

South Africa. The main division

between him and the ANC

hardliners concerns not relations

with whites, but relations with

other blacks.

Last Sunday, displaying immense

courage, he went to Durban, where he

addressed a huge ANC rally and

told it of the need for peace with

Mr Buthelezi's Inkatha, with

which ANC people, encouraged

by the leadership in exile, have

been carrying on a war costing

thousands of lives. Mr Mandela

told them to throw away their

weapons. He said: "We extend

the hand of peace to Inkatha and

hope that it may be possible for

us to share a platform with



1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone: 01-782 5000

## TOUGHING IT OUT

The next month will be the most painful period for the Government in the unhappy history of the poll tax, and consequently the most dangerous. This is the time when local authorities all over England and Wales will be announcing their budgets and the initial rate at which they will set the poll tax. Nobody with any experience of local government finance should be the least surprised that in practically every case the tax is turning out higher than expected.

Not unnaturally the prospect is deeply worrying to Conservative MPs. Many see the poll tax as the rock on which the Government is most likely to founder at the next election. The decision of 18 Conservative councillors in West Oxfordshire to resign the whip in protest at the poll tax they were being obliged to impose, underlines the deep divisions within the party and the unpopularity of the tax in local government circles.

But while the political perils are uppermost in Tory minds at present there are also economic perils which could carry their own retribution. The temptation to pour more money into softening the worst effects of the tax will be strong. The Government has already put in place benefits and safety nets which will much increase the cost of the measure without, it seems, doing much to ease the political pain. If ministers succumb to the temptation to throw good money after bad they may surrender all hope of cutting income tax further before the next election. In limiting the negative effects of one measure they will have given away the chance of positive measures to win votes in 1991.

In these circumstances all kinds of radical notions for escaping Houdini-like from the political box of the poll tax are being bandied around. Probably the most popular — though its popularity seems likely to be temporary — is to remove responsibility for education from local authorities and hand it over to central

government. Given the increasing central control over the curriculum, central bargaining over teachers' salaries and a large measure of central funding there is certainly a case for central administration.

It is not, however, a strong case. Though some additional coherence might be gained, much would be lost in the way of parental influence over the quality of schooling. More to the point, it would make the Government's political problems with the poll tax worse rather than better.

By extending local government reform over a further period of years — for centralizing education could hardly be done overnight — it would extend the political turmoil. Worst of all extra taxation would have to be raised by central government to fund the service while local authorities would reap the benefit of being able to reduce the poll tax. The option of simply transferring government grants back to central government does not exist because the grant is an integral part of the mechanism for equalizing needs and resources between different authorities.

The political illness from which the Government is suffering is an old complaint. Whenever the system of local government has been reformed in the past the cost of it has mysteriously risen and the government of the day has been blamed. It happened in the early 1970s when the present administrative units were set up and it is happening again today with the introduction of the poll tax.

But by the same token the period of political pain will be temporary. If the poll tax is anything it is a means of increasing local accountability and making councils responsible for the spending they administer and the taxes they levy. Once the transition to the new system is complete the focus will swing back on to the authorities. At this stage in the proceedings the Government must grit its teeth and look to the future.

## SECOND-HAND HOUSE SALESMEN

"I'm called away by particular business", says a character in *The School for Scandal*, "but I leave my character behind me". If half the allegations made about house agents in England and Wales in this week's *Which?* report are true, then the profession does not have enough reputation to put down as a deposit.

The President of the National Association of Estate Agents said yesterday that the breaches of the rules identified by the magazine were "not as grave as they might have been". The evidence adduced by the Consumers Association is not merely that a code of professional conduct has been breached, however, but that the law has been broken.

Under the law of agency, for instance, an estate agent is obliged always to act in the best interests of the vendor, which extends to telling the truth about any offers that have been received. Agents can, however, earn substantial commissions on the sale of insurance, and *Which?* cites the case of an agent in outer London who lied to a seller so that an offer financed by an insurance-linked mortgage was accepted in preference to a higher cash bid.

Estate agents are also required by law to get the best deal they can for each of their clients, regardless of how many properties they currently have on their books. With the market in its present depressed state, however, there is an obvious temptation to see to it that a house does not attract more than one offer. *Which?* established that many agents have been discouraging second offers and trying to divert the interest of buyers to other properties.

Again, under the Financial Services Act, advisers may recommend the purchase of life insurance only if they consider that it suits the client's needs. There is an obligation to offer "best advice", irrespective of the amount of commission involved. In the last five years, the financial institutions have bought up almost

one in three of the country's estate agency branches in a drive to sell more of their services. The CA found evidence that the tempting commissions available were leading some agents to offer bad advice — which the law forbids.

There will be some wrinkling of noses at the investigative methods employed by *Which?* in compiling its report — they not only enlisted the help of genuine sellers, but also recruited actors to pose as buyers — but they have established that there is cause for concern, particularly as the control of the 10 largest chains seems likely to grow. The Law Society made allegations of abuse some time ago, and estate agency practices are currently under review by the Office of Fair Trading.

The OFT should certainly recommend that estate agents be brought within the scope of the Trades Description Act and thus become liable to prosecution if they make bogus claims. The law should also exclude what are known as tie-in sales, where it is possible to buy a particular property only if a mortgage is obtained through the estate agent.

Membership of the estate agents' professional association is at present voluntary. That is plainly absurd. It already boasts a code of conduct. That clearly needs to be revised. The association is already in consultation with the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors and the Incorporated Society of Valuers and Auctioneers, and these long-established professional bodies are well-equipped to offer valuable advice.

The President of the National Association of Estate Agents said rather plaintively yesterday that he did not like the Consumers Association's "reluctance to say anything positive about this industry". The remedy lies with his members. If they start to set their house in order now, there will be that much less about which to legislate.

## PACIFIC DISCORD

President Bush's pressing invitation to the Japanese Prime Minister, Mr Toshiki Kaifu, to meet him in California was not delivered out of courtesy to the newly-elected leader of the world's second-largest economic power. It was an acknowledgement that US-Japanese relations have deteriorated to the point where political intervention is essential.

Opinion polls on both sides of the Pacific reveal rising American hostility to the Japanese and Japanese contempt for Americans. American paranoia has been increased by Japanese purchases of such landmarks as the Rockefeller Centre, and the growing awareness that the US budget deficit is largely funded by Japanese purchases of Treasury bonds. As the mid-term congressional election campaigns get under way, the Democrats are expected to make political hay of anti-Japanese prejudice; and protectionism on Capitol Hill is a well-banked fire.

For Mr Kaifu, the timing is hardly convenient. His hold on power must still be judged tenuous. Yet he will be under tremendous pressure this weekend to make far-reaching concessions, and stands to lose either way. If there is no breakthrough, he could be made the scapegoat at home as well as in the US for an escalating trade war; but he can hardly promise, as the US wants, to boost consumer spending precisely at the moment when the Bank of Japan is determined to rein in the growth of the money supply.

Mr Bush's telephone call came at the end of a week of singularly acerbic exchanges between diplomats and officials. The latest round of the Structural Impediment Initiative, bilateral talks principally aimed at reducing the \$49 billion trade imbalance, had just ended in disagreement, with American officials complaining about the lack of "political guidance" and Japanese commentators castigating Washington for its "unreasonable expectations".

The US Defence Secretary, Mr Dick Cheney, whose announcement in Tokyo of cuts in the numbers of US troops stationed in Japan had

taken the Japanese Government by surprise, had compounded matters by publicly linking the future of the strategic alliance to progress on the trade front. Mr Kaifu will be looking to Mr Bush for a strong affirmation that the trade dispute will not be allowed to diminish America's commitment to Japanese security.

Mr Kaifu's room for manoeuvre on other fronts has been restricted by rash campaign promises — to farmers anxious to maintain barriers against rice imports, and to small shopkeepers opposed to the abolition of the Large Scale Retail Stores Law restricting the spread of super-markets: a key objective for Washington, which claims that the system discriminates against imports. More broadly, the big Japanese corporations which financed the LDP victory are unenthusiased by Washington's declared objective of tilting the emphasis of Japan's economic policy from production to consumption.

They are tiring of American lectures on opening their markets, and have begun to stress that America's low savings rates and the inability of its companies to compete are the real sources of the trade imbalance. Such senior figures as Mr Akio Morita, chairman of Sony, are objecting to US "interference in domestic affairs".

It will not be easy to find a formula for peace — or at least a truce which will head off congressional retaliation this spring under the 1988 Trade Act against Japan's "unfair" trading practices. One avenue might be to place less emphasis on bilateral trade talks, which have raised temperatures without producing results, and more on the multilateral Uruguay Round of trade liberalization.

America's need for Japanese investment (and imports) is paralleled by Japan's still-considerable dependence on US markets. The United States could, with profit, lower the decibels. Japan should acknowledge that it should not need external pressures to correct the distortions in its economy.

## Facts and figures on student loans

From Councillor Hilary Benn

Sir, I was interested to read your leading article (February 28) on the Government's student loan scheme, in particular its impact upon students in London and the South-east.

The Government's proposals to remove students' rights to claim means-tested social security benefits will cause great hardships for students in the capital. Research shows that in 1988-89 the average student in London received nearly £300 in benefits, and the average amount received by those who claimed some sort of benefit was £500. As the benefit system is means-tested the latter figure is of most significance, especially when it is compared to the £460 loan which will be made available to students in London in place of their benefit rights.

Mr MacGregor cannot contest these figures as they come from the "Student Income and Expenditure Report 1988-89", which is published by his own department.

One can only guess why the Government is proceeding with this scheme, which runs contrary to its own philosophy of "targeting" and which will clearly impoverish students who choose to study in our capital city.

Yours sincerely,

HILARY BENN (Chairman,

Education Committee),

Association of London Authorities,

36 Old Queen Street, SW1.

February 28.

From Mrs Kathryn Bennett

Sir, Whilst your leader seems sympathetic to the problems facing students in further education your subtle snipe at public money "keeping them in books and beer" must be challenged.

My son is currently studying electronics at Brunel University and with text books costing around £20 each and his high living expenses, public money does not keep him — or most other students around the country — in books and beer.

Is it your intention that students are not entitled to enjoy themselves at all while they study?

Yours faithfully,

KATHRYN BENNETT,

Stonehenge, Main Street,

Gawton,

Buckinghamshire.

February 28.

From Lord Boyd-Carpenter

Sir, Your from-page column today, headed "Lords revolt fails on student loans", seems, despite its kindly personal references, to be based on a misunderstanding of House of Lords procedure.

It is the established convention that the House of Lords does not vote against the second reading of a Bill which has passed the Commons. This convention was followed yesterday. The vote which took place was on an amendment to the motion for second reading moved by Earl Russell and critical of the form and drafting of the Bill.

Even if accepted it would have been a mere expression of opinion on these matters and would not have affected in the slightest degree the progress or substance of the Bill. As I said in my speech, it was no more than a "distraction" from the serious issues raised by the Bill.

The time to consider and, if necessary, vote on these is during the next three stages of the Bill.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

BOYD-CARPENTER,

House of Lords.

February 28.

From Mr H. M. Stewart

Sir, I was amused by Mr Gaskell's comments (February 24) on the selection of Mr Kevin Saunders as prospective candidate for Falmouth-Caradon.

Mr Saunders should take heart that in this country (as opposed to the US) he will be standing against Mr Sebastian Coe, not running against him — which must surely shorten the odds somewhat.

I have the honour to be, Sir, your humble and obedient servant,

H. M. STEWART,

Meredith Beech Way,

Gerards Cross,

Buckinghamshire.

February 26.

From Dr Graham E. Fulke

Sir, Your correspondent, Dr J. A. D. Ewart, in his letter published on February 20, expounds a pretty theory on the reason for a gentleman's hat bow to be worn on the street.

What happens, I ask, if the swordman is left-handed?

Yours faithfully,

GRAHAM E. FULKE,

36 Welton Road,

Folkestone, Kent.

March 1.

From The Reverend Alan Cooke

Sir, Whether or not the Muslins' God is offended by Salman Rushdie's book is perhaps not for a Christian to judge. What is surely clear, however, is that no God who submits willingly and in love to the indignity of crucifixion (and that on a charge of blasphemy) needs any protection by the law.

Yours faithfully,

ALAN COOKE,

The Vicarage, Milne Street,

Chadderton,

Oldham, Lancashire.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Facts and figures on student loans

From Professor Emeritus

J. K. Mason

Sir, Mr Forrest's letter (February 28) raises a problem which many have found difficult. The principle of *mater est*, fictional though it may be in some instances, is to be approved in the ordinary case of ovum or embryo donation where the resultant infant is born to a childless woman who wishes to be the social and legal mother of the child she has carried.

It is also appropriate in the surrogacy situation as it is commonly understood — not only is the surrogate the genetic mother, but also the principle establishes her right to retain her child in the event of conflict with the genetic father.

Where it fails down is in the exceptional case of what I have, for this reason, isolated as "womb-leasing" — the course adopted by Mr Forrest's clients. In these circumstances, to recognise the carrying woman as the child's mother is not only to erect a fiction but, also, to impose a downward untruth.

The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill, as it stands, confers motherhood on any woman who has carried a child (26); by contrast, it applies the irrebuttable presumption of *pater*

est only in a consenting intra-marital situation (c.27(2)).

It would seem that Mr Forrest's case could be settled, and the desired overall effect retained, if this restriction were also placed on motherhood. The door would then be left open for the unmarried surrogate or womb-leaser to consent to rebuttal of the common-law presumption of maternity by means of serological or DNA-profiling techniques.

This would fail in the case of the surrogate, who would not take up the option and would remain, quite rightly, the legal mother. In the womb-leaser's case, however, it would succeed and those in a situation similar to Mr Forrest's clients would then be free to demonstrate, and benefit from, their true genetic relationship to the child.

Further amendment of the proposed legislation would be needed to cover the position of the married surrogate and her husband, but that introduces separate issues.

I am, Sir, your faithfully,

J. K. MASON,

University of Edinburgh,

Faculty of Law,

Old College, South Bridge,

Edinburgh.

March 1.

the anthem, its second. This contains a rousing reference to "German women, German faithfulness, German wine and German song" maintaining "their ancient and beautiful reputation".

What better way to tell the world that the new German will be happier sitting in a bierkeller than driving a truck!

Yours faithfully,

MICHAEL WEIGALL,

33 Westbourne Gardens, W2.

February 28.

From Mr G. T. C. Musgrave

Sir, I read with interest the letter from Mr Barnes in your edition today putting forward as a national anthem for a newly to be reunited Germany the time "Ich habe mich ergeben".

I believe it was not infrequently used (and for all I know still is) as a marching song by German troops. So it is probably quite well known in Europe outside Germany, at least by older


**COURT  
AND  
SOCIAL**
**COURT  
CIRCULAR**

BUCKINGHAM PALACE  
March 1: The Queen, Colonel-in-Chief, and The Duke of Edinburgh visited the Welsh Guards at Elizabeth Barracks, Paddington today and were received by Brigadier J F Rickett (Residential Lieutenant-Colonel).

Her Majesty and His Royal Highness were received on the Parade Ground with a Royal Salute. The Colonel-in-Chief presented leeks to the Officers and Warrant Officers and a representative of the Welsh Guards Association on the occasion of St David's Day.

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh subsequently met members of the Welsh Guards Old Comrades Association and attended a reception in the Sergeants Mess.

Afterwards Her Majesty, with His Royal Highness, honoured the Commanding Officer (Lieutenant-Colonel D P Belcher) with her presence at lunch in the Officers Mess.

The Countess of Airlie, Sir Robert Fellowes and Lieutenant-Colonel Blair Stewart-Wilson were in attendance.

The Prince Edward this evening attended a dinner at Guildhall in aid of the Sports and Foundation Charitable Trust.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sean O'Dwyer was in attendance.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE, NICEWOOD PARK, NICEWOOD, March 1: Princess Alexandra, Honorary Colonel in Chief, The Light Infantry, this afternoon received Major General J D G Park on retiring as Colonel of the Regiment and Brigadier A Makpeace-Warne upon assuming this appointment.

**Today's royal engagements**

The Queen, accompanied by The Duke of Edinburgh, will attend a ceremony at King's Theatre, Glasgow, at 10.50 when the Mayor of Paris will hand over the title of "European City of Culture" to the Lord Provost of Glasgow, and will open the McLellan Galleries at 11.30.

The Princess of Wales will visit the Metropolitan Police Driving School, Peel Centre, Aerodrome Road, NW9, at 10.15.

Prince Edward, as Chairman of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Special Projects Group, will attend a reception and presentation at The Low Wood Hotel, Windermere, at 6.20.

The Princess Royal, as Patron of Universade '91, will visit the World Student Games "Opening Out Ceremony", Ponden Forge, Sheffield, at 10.15. She will open the 16th Concerto Centre, Duxbury Street, Sheffield, at 1.55, will visit YMCA, Broomhill Road at 2.25, and, as President of the Save the Children Fund, will visit the fund's shop, Cookes Road, Broomhill, at 3.05.

**Marriages**

Mr R.R. Peate and Miss C.A. Fletcher-Wood. The marriage took place at Wagstaff Court House, New South Wales, of Caroline Fletcher-Wood to Russell Robert Peate, on February 21. Future address PO Box 207, Lightning Ridge, NSW 2834, Australia.

Mr A.C. Stirling and Miss G.A. Waddell. The marriage took place on Saturday, February 24, at New Kilpatrick Church, Beasden, of Mr Christopher Stirling, son of Mr and Mrs David Stirling, of Stom Street, Kent, to Miss Gillian Waddell, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Alan Waddell, of Beasden, Glasgow.

The bride, who was given away by her father, was attended by Mr Waddell, Alan Lamb, James Dugdale, and Sebastian Finlay. Mr Richard Brake was best man.

**Lecture**

Community Service Volunteers Dr Alex Dickson, Founder of Community Service Volunteers and Voluntary Service Overseas, delivered the first Edith Kahn memorial lecture held last night at the House of Commons by invitation of Mr David Blunkett MP, and Mrs Chris Smith, MP.

**Dinners**
**Sports Aid Foundation**

His Royal Highness, the Prince Edward, CVO, was guest of honour last night at a Sports Aid Foundation Dinner at Guildhall to honour recent Commonwealth Games medalists and disabled athletes. Mr Eddie Kulukundis OBE, Chairman of SAF presided. The speakers included Mr Paul Zetter CBE, Mr Peter Yarrow, Mr John Ward and Mr Anthony Fenwick-Watson. The dinner was sponsored by Golden Grid plc, part of the launch of their Skitball competition.

**Dinners**

London Welsh The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester were the guests of honour at the St David's Day London Welsh Cup dinner held last night at the Savoy Hotel. Mrs Anita Griffiths, president, was in the chair. Miss Sian Phillips, Mr John Morris, QC, MP, and Mr Cliff Morgan also spoke. Judge David Griffiths was among the guests.

Royal Cruising Club Mr Michael Vernon, chairman of the RNLI, accompanied by Mrs Vernon, was the guest of honour at the annual dinner of the Royal Cruising Club held last night at the Navy and Military Club. Mr W.H. Bentin, Commodore, received the guests who included the Commodore of the Clyde Cruising Club and Mrs Sharp.

CLARENCE HOUSE  
March 1: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother was present this evening at a Soirée d'Or at the Royal College of Music.

Ruth, Lady Fermoy and Sir Alastair Aird were in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE  
March 1: The Prince and Princess of Wales visited Clwyd to meet evacuees, members of the emergency services and voluntary workers involved in the flood disaster at Towy.

The Royal Highnesses were received by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Clwyd (Sir William Gladstone, Bt).

Colonel Richard Ayland, RN and Mr Philip Mackie were in attendance.

The Royal Highnesses were received by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Clwyd (Sir William Gladstone, Bt).

On television, too, she was a reliable Aunt Agatha in P. G. Wodehouse's *The World of Wooster*, while in the cinema she played Miss Catherine Allen in the Merchant-Ivory production of E. M. Forster's *A Room With a View*.

A woman of vitality and wit, as imposing in real life as she was on the stage and screen, she first made her reputation as a Shakespearean heroine in professional Shakespeare had been as Viola for a single night with the Fellowship of Players.

She was now asked to learn Lady Macbeth, Beatrice, Gertrude, Mistress Page, Viola and Hippolyta in just three weeks, and to tour North America with the Stratford company. This she did, though her voice was perilously taxed, and she returned for another American visit in 1931.

She took part in the opening production of the Memorial Theatre on Shakespeare's birthday in April 1932 and though her part was a tiny one, Lady Percy in *Henry IV Part One*, she was one of the few performers to master the auditorium's tricky acoustics.

With most of the cast at a loss, and the production proceeding awkwardly, the way she moved out upon the apron stage to touch her audience to excitement became an imperishable memory for all those fortunate enough to be there.

That season she was a glowing Portia in the Kominievsky production of *The Merchant of Venice*, and the next year she was back as Lady Macbeth in the same director's "aluminum" revival, so-called because of the scenic design.

During the autumn of 1933 she acted Rosalind in London during a short Phoenix Theatre revival of *As You Like It* but, remarkably, she never appeared professionally in Shakespeare again.

Her theatrical achievements came in spite of an endemic and paralysing stage

**OBITUARIES**
**FABIA DRAKE**

From stage ingénue to *grande dame* of the screen



Fabia Drake, OBE, an actress of formidable presence whose career enjoyed an unexpected late flowering on television and in the cinema, has died at the age of 86.

In her younger days a leading Shakespearean player, she became known to a more recent generation for her gallery of imperious old ladies, such as Lady Midolman in the BBC series, *The Pallisers*, based on the novels of Trollope. Her Indian summer continued, literally, with her Mabel in *The Jewel in the Crown*, where she held her own against another veteran, and a life-long friend, Peggy Ashcroft.

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but, remarkably, she never appeared

professionally in Shakespeare again.

Her theatrical achievements came in

spite of an endemic and paralysing

stage

fright, which was eventually traced back

to guilt over an incident in childhood

during which she made herself sick to

avoid going to Sunday school.

She was born Ethel McGlinchey, in

Herne Bay, Kent, on January 20, 1904,

the daughter of a failed Irish actor and a

Scottish mother. A child of phenomenal

ability, she began studying for the stage

at the then Academy of Dramatic Arts at

the age of nine and even played Richard

III.

Her first professional engagement was

in 1914 and two years later, still only 11,

she played Robin, Falstaff's page, in

scenes from *The Merry Wives of Wind-*

*soar* at Brighton with Eileen Terry.

At 13, helping out the choirboys of All

Saints, Margaret Street, in the "kitchen"

scene of *Twelfth Night* she found herself as

Toby Belch with the 10-year-old

Laurence Olivier as Maria. In 1916 she

shared a play with Noel Coward.

Later, after education in France, she

understood and occasionally acted

Yasmin in Flecker's *Hassan* for Basil

Dean and went on to tackle various

ingénues in minor West End plays. One

of these, *The Scarlet Lady* (1926) by

John Hastings Turner, introduced her to

John Herries, her idols, *Marie Tempest*.

After her Stratford period, her career

went into lower gear though she

was cast as a character of some subtlety, Miss

Vuliamy, in Richard Price's *Frolic*

*Wind* and in 1935 had a long run at the

Whitehall as Lady Cynthia in St John

Ervine's *Anthony and Anna*.

In 1938 she married a barrister,

Maxwell Turner (brother of the playwright

John Hastings Turner) and virtually

retired.

But during the Second World War

she returned to RADA to teach and in

1946 she directed Robert Donat's revival of

*Much Ado About Nothing*.

Her husband, who became an Old

Bailey judge, died in 1960 at the early age of 53. They had a daughter, Deirdre. She subsequently had a very close friendship with Laurence Olivier. In 1916 she

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John Herries, her idols, *Marie Tempest*.

After her Stratford period, her career



\* SOME REVIEWS MAY BE REPRINTED

FROM YESTERDAY'S LATER EDITIONS

## Male MP preferred

### TELEVISION

Sheridan Morley

Seventy years after Nancy Astor's arrival in the House of Commons, it remains the best men's club in the world, with fewer than 50 women among its 600 members. Even a decade and three elections after Thatcher, the ideal Conservative candidate for parliament apparently remains a middle-aged, middle-class white male with a wife, two kids and a hatchback.

As if to prove that nothing much changes, *40 Minutes* (BBC 2) spent last night looking at the High Peak district of Derbyshire and its continuing reluctance to allow a woman into the next voting race. The programme title, "A Safe Sex for a Safe Seat", unfortunately gave away its ending, but along the route there were some wonderfully characteristic shots of Tory chairwomen and their young hopefuls, all apparently cast from some *Bulwark Brothers* comedy.

Those who still believe that this country has been through any kind of social, sexual or political revolution in the last ten years need no more than a weekend amid the High Peaks to remind themselves that English attitudes never die.

Elsewhere, however, one or two things are changing, not least perhaps our readiness to talk about the condom. Just 120 years after the rubber contraceptive made its public debut at the World's Fair of 1871, a weird and wonderful BBC 2 series called *Small Objects of Desire* looked at the century of sexual uneasiness characterized by the fact that while we referred to the French letter, the French always believed it to be an English invention, while the Germans believed it not to exist at all. However, at least condoms are no longer banished to a box under the barber's counter labelled "something for the weekend".

On ITV, *This Week* interviewed a group of young Asian female runaways who are facing death threats from the husbands they are escaping. One has resorted to plastic surgery, others are hiding abroad, all are facing a culture clash which has led to groups of Moslem vigilantes roaming Birmingham trying to recapture the fleeing victims of arranged marriages.

Ironically it would seem that the immigrant community is not progressing nearly as fast down the path of tolerance and female emancipation as those who have stayed in their own countries.

John Russell Taylor  
reviews exhibitions  
of Scottish and  
Icelandic painting

If you suggest to a Scot that the brilliant hues of the Scottish Colourists may be a reaction to the somewhat grim and greyish environment in which they found themselves, the response is likely to be aggressive.

What do you mean, no colour in Scotland? Icelanders are not quite so ready with rebuttal. Yes, they say, Iceland is undeniably dark for some of the year, and no doubt a yearning for the brief but brilliant summer may have a lot to do with what Icelandic artists paint.

It is, presumably, largely by coincidence that two major touring shows, one of 20th-century Scottish art and the other of 20th-century Icelandic art, should both be achieving their place in the London sun at the same time. But since they are simultaneously in the Barbican Centre, it is natural to indulge in comparison.

I reviewed both of them before, at their respective starting-points: Scottish Art since 1900 at the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art (now at the Barbican Art Gallery, to April 16), and Landscapes from a High Latitude at the Ferens Gallery, Hull (now at the Barbican Concourse Gallery, to April 8).

There are, first, extraordinary and perhaps not altogether unexpected parallels between the two national arts. The painters of both tend towards brilliant colouring, and it is not too wild a generalization to see landscape as the fundamental inspiration.

The Icelandic show takes the bull by the horns, announcing in its title that it concerns landscape – though in fact landscape is defined very broadly. And, naturally, many artists represented in the Scottish show paint all sorts of things which have, superficially, little to do with landscape.

All the same, there is a general feeling that all these artists are somehow suffused with a sense of place – whatever their paintings may be about. This is definitely true the closer they approach to abstraction: Icelanders such as Johann Briem, or Scots such as Joan Eardley, seem to be impelled towards abstraction through analysis of the landscape before their eyes.



Scottish Art since 1900: "Two Women Sewing", an undated oil on canvas by Robert MacBrayne, now at the Barbican Art Gallery

And yet Briem's patterns of gorgeous colour and Eardley's flurries of violently applied paint, though they take on an independent life of their own, never finally lose touch with the rocks and plants, the expanses of sky and sea, which have given them birth. In either show you could find perfect demonstrations of how the fusion we call Abstract Expressionism came about.

The fact that Iceland has such a small population makes all the more remarkable the high proportion who are not only artists, but artists of strength and originality. It must be only geographical isolation which has prevented a figure like Johannes S. Kjarval from being internationally recognized as a major symbolist, able to imbue the simplest scene with a humming inner mystery which compels attention.

He can find a bounding secret life in a vase of flowers, and seems to have been personally drawn to that primeval stage when gods and spirits walked the land. Other Icelandic painters are

more suave and less wildly variable. Jon Stefansson was unusual in Iceland, in that he looked more towards Paris than towards continental Scandinavia for his models. But his originality too is beyond question. And anywhere else painters such as Gunnlaugur Scheving and Finnur Jonsson would surely be recognized as major figures: no doubt the art market will be duly alerted. Among the current figures, Sigríður Órlygsson, with her large, slightly Monty-Python-esque paintings (sometimes with sculptural excrescences) is beguilingly odd and eccentric.

I should be able to say that the course of Scottish art this century is more familiar to me than that of Icelandic. But, to the southern English, all too much remains a closed book. The reasons are sometimes similar: a lot of Scottish art, like much Icelandic, hardly crosses the national borders, not because it is rejected out-of-hand elsewhere, but because it has such an enthusiastic audience at home that not so much is left to

wander. However, that does not mean that we should be ignorant even of the general picture.

The Barbican Art Gallery, with its sealed-off coves of concrete, can be very constraining for some shows. But here each section forwards the argument, proving just a nice size for selected highlights which fall naturally together.

Scottish Colourists (with J.D. Fergusson outstanding, whether he is painting a luridly made-up turn-of-the-century lady or a camouflaged battlefield in the First World War; early Modernists; meticulous, slightly surrealistic realists; Forties followers of Picasso and Neo-Romanticism, and so on right up to the new Glasgow figurative painters) all are coherently laid out before us, following from one to another as clearly and inevitably as the graded pearls in a necklace. There is also an expressive division between upstairs (modern) and downstairs (contemporary), with

just Eardley, appropriately, bestriding the two worlds.

Even in Scotland, there were discoveries to be made. Edward Baird, first a Super-realist, then a Surrealist, though almost unknown, immediately takes his place alongside the already admired James Cowie as a master of that ambiguous area where, the more precise everything is, the less we can feel sure of anything. Stanley Cursiter, with his bold and brilliant conventionalizations of everyday scenes, is an early Modernist worth detailed investigation. Robert MacBrayne, always overshadowed by his companion and sometimes collaborator Robert Colquhoun, here has several works quite as strong and personal as anything by the other Robert.

And – dare one say it? – the whole show, as well as individual works in it, benefits from some compression and concentration of effect. If it does not, for the English, constitute a real, overdue revelation of the glories just across the border, it must be feared that nothing ever will.

## Power to the people

Simon Tait talks to Leningrad's cultural supremo

Education cyclones has reached even the arts in Russia. We had requested an interview with Mrs Tatiana Zakharchova, the deputy mayor of Leningrad responsible for arts and culture.

When we heard that it had been granted that same day, there were wry smiles among our Kirov Ballet hosts. A fortnight's notice is usually required, and no guarantee even then. "She wants to get the message out that the arts and culture in Leningrad are safe under the old regime," one Kirov administrator said.

This Sunday, Leningrad elects its city council. The city's cultural future takes its place alongside such issues as food shortages, homelessness and the unceasing bureaucratic and financial battle with Moscow. For the first time, Mrs Zakharchova and the other nine deputy mayors who form the cabinet of the council are being opposed, with the Leningrad People's Front presenting a real threat to a hitherto unchallenged Communist authority.

Leningrad's citizens are arguably the most fanatical in the world about classical music and dance. Teenage girls have posters of Ruzimov and Liepa, the Kirov male stars, on their bedroom walls. When Rostropovich gave his two concerts a fortnight ago, students were offering Europeans their fur hats in exchange for tickets. Each city district has its own dance school and music school.

Mrs Zakharchova promises to spend nine million roubles on restoring the beautiful inner-city buildings in a "zone of care", many still derelict after the 900-day siege of Leningrad nearly 50 years ago. Some will become residential again, others are to be concert halls, theatres and museums.

"The programme has not been created in the silence of offices," she said. "It has been a collective work of all the creative unions, which number seven in Leningrad. The Fund is called the Fund of Renaissance". Foreign companies, chiefly from Scandinavia, have been asked to tender for contracts "so that the newly restored cultural institutions can start functioning as soon as possible".

"It's not accidental that the city of Leningrad is called the city of high culture," said Mrs Zakharchova, speaking in the newly-restored gold and marble splendour of the former Maryinsky Palace, now the town hall. "It's our generation that now has to face the job of maintaining the buildings and monuments of Leningrad."

Alongside the Hermitage Museum, the most famous artistic "monument" is probably the Kirov Ballet. It is funded directly by the Ministry of Culture, not the city, and its director, Oleg Vinogradov, claims not to know even what his budget is the bills go straight to Moscow.

"But we support them," said Mrs Zakharchova. "For instance, three years ago we built a special residence for the Kirov dancers and those involved in the theatre. The money has not been paid back yet by the Ministry of Culture. We do hope that they will, some time."

The Kirov Ballet is now on foreign tour: in Paris, Dublin, London, Birmingham, and Italy until September, with only two weeks at home. Is there resentment at their long absences and their inaccessibility to ordinary Leningrad residents even when they are at home?

"You have touched a raw nerve. The bulk of tickets for the Kirov are sold to foreign tourists, and a very small portion is left over for the citizens. For the last two years, the management of the theatre has been trying to make it more accessible to domestic audiences. For the first time a performance was done to Leningrad students, and there was one for orphans, but it is very difficult to make them more accessible for the short times available."

The "Renaissance" programme is due to be completed by the city's 300th anniversary in 2003.

## Voyeurs, hoods and trolls

### THEATRE

Benedict Nightingale

Peer Gynt  
Olivier Theatre



Riding high: Meera Syal as Anerita and Stephen Moore as Peer Gynt

## Homage to the baroque

### CONCERTS

Paul Griffiths

Moscow Soloists  
Barbican



Yuval Bashmet: imaginative points

chose not to follow his imaginative points of non-vibrato on the lead viola line.

But the concert ended marvelously with the Schnittke piece, his Sonata for Violin, Strings and Harpsichord (1968), which boasted bright-toned and immaculate solo playing from Oleg Kagan. The piece has the slow-fast-slow-fast pattern of a sonata da chiesa, both of the fast sections being scherzos on nagging banalities, while the second slow movement is a passacaglia on glistening string chords, ending with the soloist in high harmonics (Kagan here was astonishing) against an accompaniment reduced to accordion-style wheezes.

Occasionally the work leaves its origin as a violin-piano sonata undisguised, but the expansion clearly allowed Schnittke to uncover a homage to the baroque as much as to Shostakovich, and to create a range of fascinating inventions for string ensemble. There will be more Schnittke from this group on Monday.

Noel Goodwin

Yeho Ean Mei  
Purcell Room

song by Cole Porter.

She was also inclined to weigh heavily on the more emotional aspects of Schumann's *Kreisleriana*, the major work she played. For all that this music, eight fantasies of disproportionate length and contrast that the composer grouped into a synthesis of assorted moods rather than linked themes, can be vividly provocative

of the listener's as well as the performer's imagination, the performance on this occasion took a literal and not sufficiently fanciful view of the content.

One other composer featured in the programme was Dmitri Kabalevsky. Himself a pianist, he left a handful of piano works among his larger output which have at times been useful for teaching purposes. What is less apparent, on the evidence of the third of his three Sonatas played here, is that so mundane a level of keyboard writing was worth the not inconsiderable effort of learning and playing in public.

## Rhapsodic triumph for prodigy

Barry Millington

Philharmonia/  
Sinopoli

Royal Festival Hall

like a dodecaphonous squawk. Fortunately, Haimovitz is unquestionably a real musician, and his rhapsodic musings in response to the clarinet melody of the adagio were exquisitely done.

He does not have a grand, generous tone, such as Tortelier brings to bear in this concerto, nor a manner of address that similarly seizes the listener's heart. On the contrary, his playing is intimately scaled, drawing the listener in. One moment in the finale was particularly noteworthy. As he dueted briefly with

the solo violinist, Haimovitz clined towards him to establish genuine rapport.

His technique is generally cure, though only his vibrato saved him in the treacherous upper reaches of his final tercette. Too much is expected of young artists such as this. Haimovitz undoubtedly has great talent, yet to blossom fully. For evidence of true musicianship in Sinopoli's *Pathétique*, listened in vain. Where was the emotional wasteland of the symphony's opening, the despairing pathos of the finale, or even the electrifying energy of the scherzo? In each case, we were given a synthetic substitute; this was conducted by numbers. Nobody wants over-inflated Tchaikovsky, but uniform blandness and the empty gesturing of artificially slow tempi are not the solution either.

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## WEEKEND INFORMATION SERVICE

This selective guide to entertainment and events throughout Britain appears from Monday to Friday, followed in the Review section on Saturday by a preview of the week ahead. Items should be sent to The Times Information Service, PO Box 7, 1 Virginia Street, London E1 9XN

**BOOKING KEY**  
★ Seats available  
★ Returns only  
(D) Access for disabled

## FILMS

■ Also on national release  
■ Advance booking possible

■ BLACK RAIN (18): Crime story  
Directed by Ridley Scott about a  
murdered New York cop (Michael  
Douglas) and a Japanese gangster  
through China (Takeshi Kaga).  
Cannon Fulham Road (01-370 2836).  
Progs 2.00, 5.00, 9.00.  
Plaza (01-200 0200). Progs 12.15, 3.00,  
5.45, 8.30.

■ BLAZE (15): Colourful Americans from writer-director Ron Shelton, with Paul Newman in commanding form as ageing Louisiana governor Earl Long.  
Innocently in love with a stripper (Candy Lozano), Earl is a 102-mint. Cannon Kensington (01-639 1827).  
Progs 2.40, 5.20, 8.55, 11.15.  
Odeon Kensington (01-803 6644).  
Progs 3.25, 8.35, 11.15.  
Odeon Oxford Street (01-722 5905).  
Progs 2.10, 5.30, 8.25, 11.15.  
Warner West End (01-438 0791). Progs  
12.35, 3.10, 5.50, 8.25, 11.10.

■ CASUALTIES OF WAR (16):  
American atrocities in Vietnam, viewed  
throughfully by director Brian De Palma,  
with Michael Douglas as the soldier  
standing apart from the brutal antics of  
Sean Penn (114 min).  
Cannon Oxford Street (01-639 0310).  
Progs 12.35, 3.10, 5.50, 8.25, 11.10.

■ DRIVING MISS DAISY (19): Sweet,  
endearing film of Alfred Lunt's play  
about a refined Southern lady (Jessica  
Tandy) and her black chauffeur (Morgan  
Freeman). Nominated for nine Oscars;  
directed by Bruce Beresford (90 min).  
Warner West End (01-439 4805). Progs  
1.30, 4.10, 5.20, 8.40.

■ FAMILY BUSINESS: Comedy-drama  
based on a novel by Vincent Price,  
with Sean Connery and Dusan Hoffman  
as members of a family of crime (100  
mins). Notting Hill Coronet (01-727 6705).  
Progs 3.30, 6.00, 8.15.

■ ODEON KENSINGTON (01-602 6644).  
Progs 1.20, 2.30, 5.20, 8.40, 11.15.  
Odeon Leicester Square (01-580 6111).  
Progs 12.05, 2.45, 5.35, 8.25, 11.15.  
Odeon Swiss Cottage (01-722 5905).  
Progs 2.00, 5.00, 8.25.

■ FIELD OF DREAMS (PG): Overly  
cozy American, with Kevin Costner as a  
farmer encouraged by a celestial voice  
to use his cornfield for a baseball pitch.  
Directed by Phil Alden Robinson (106  
min). Cannon Haymarket (01-839 1527).  
Progs 1.25, 3.30, 6.15, 8.45, 11.25.

■ HONEY, I SHRUNK THE KIDS (U):  
The Disney studio's endearingly  
stilted variation on *The Incredible Shrinking Man*, with Rick Moranis as the  
lukewarm inventor who accidentally  
shrinks his children to minuscule size.  
Directed by John Johnson (102 mins).  
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shown the jacket of a dead son, an  
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matching Japanese play, *Jackets I*, which has yet to be seen in  
London.

■ ODEON MARBLE ARCH (01-723 2111).  
Progs 12.30, 3.10, 5.50, 8.25.  
Cinéma Chelsea (01-352 5086).  
1.30, 3.45, 7.30, 9.40.

■ LAST EXIT TO BROOKLYN (18):  
Raw, powerful version of Hubert Selby  
Jr's once-controversial novel of  
Brooklyn life, from the director of  
*Christiane F.* Ulrich Seidl. With Stephen  
Lang, Jennifer Jason Leigh (102 mins).  
Cinéma Tropicana (01-352 2565).  
Progs 2.20, 5.45, 8.30.

■ MONKEY SHINES (18): Frazzled,  
unpleasant nonsense from Director  
George A Romero about a severely  
disabled man (John Begley) and a  
monkey bedded up on human tissue (113  
min). Prince Charles (01-437 8181). Progs  
1.05, 3.20, 5.50, 8.20, 11.15.

■ PARENTHOOD (12): Epicodic heart-  
warmer from Ron Howard about the  
joys and sorrows of raising children.  
Features a large, excellent cast (Steve  
Martin, Mary Steenburgen, Dianne  
West, Jason Roberts) (114 mins).  
Cinéma Tropicana (01-352 2565).  
Progs 2.10, 5.10, 9.05.  
Cinéma Oxford (01-638 0310).  
Progs 2.00, 5.00, 8.15, 11.20.  
Plaza (01-437 1234). Progs 12.15, 3.00,  
5.45, 8.30, 11.15.  
Whitby (01-352 3300).  
Progs 12.35, 3.15, 5.25, 9.05.

■ WHEN HARRY MET SALLY (15):  
Engaging romantic comedy, with Billy  
Crystal and Meg Ryan as professional  
Manhattanites who gradually fall  
for each other. Directed by Nora Ephron,  
director of *When Harry Met Sally*.  
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Warner West End (01-439 4805). Progs  
1.30, 4.10, 5.20, 8.40, 11.10.

■ A DRY WHITE SEASON (15): Powerful  
sophisticated thriller (from Andrzej Brink's  
novel), with Donald Sutherland as a milk  
schoolteacher whose conscience is  
frayed. Directed. By Etzehan Pacy; with  
a Lucy cameo from Marion Brando  
(108 min). Cinéma Tropicana (01-352 2565).  
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Progs 12.30, 3.10, 5.50, 8.25.  
Cinéma Chelsea (01-352 5086).  
1.30, 3.45, 7.30, 9.40.

■ ODEON KENSINGTON (01-602 6644).  
Progs 1.20, 2.30, 5.20, 8.40, 11.15.  
Odeon Leicester Square (01-580 6111).  
Progs 12.05, 2.45, 5.35, 8.25, 11.15.  
Odeon Swiss Cottage (01-722 5905).  
Progs 2.00, 5.00, 8.25.

■ JACKET II, the first new play by  
Edward Bond (left) to be seen in  
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The play is set in a riot-  
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Executive Editor  
 David Brewerton

THE POUND

US dollar 1.6655 (-0.0250)

W German mark 2.8572 (-0.0073)

Exchange index 89.3 (-0.6)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share 1764.9 (-16.5)

FT-SE 100 2238.4 (-17.0)

USM (Dastream) 148.68 (-0.82)

Market report, page 30

Tunnel record

Transmanche-Link, which is Eurotunnel's contractor, said that work on the Channel tunnel progressed at a record monthly total of 5.5 kilometres, or almost 3.5 miles, in February. This meant that 40 per cent of the tunnel was completed.

The breakthrough between Britain and France is forecast for December. The project is scheduled to be operational in June 1993.

ASW ahead

ASW Holdings reports pre-tax profit of £40.4 million, compared with a pre-form £31.6 million, for 1989. It is paying a total dividend of 11p (5p).

Tempus, page 24

Dividend up

Foreign and Colonial Investment Trust reports a 41 per cent rise in net asset value to 199.4p a share and a 15 per cent rise in the total dividend for 1989 to 2.6p.

STOCK MARKETS

New York: Dow Jones 2642.79 (+15.54)

Tokyo: Nikkei Average 33229.58 (-762.41)

Hong Kong: Hang Seng 2933.13 (-18.85)

Amsterdam: CBS Tendency 105.3 (-1.3)

Sydney: AO 1570.8 (-2.4)

Frankfurt DAX 1787.87 (-22.05)

Brussels: General 5721.13 (+47.8)

Paris CAC 497.79 (+0.28)

Zurich: SKA Gen 598.4 (-4.7)

London: FT-A All-Share 1114.8 (-1.8)

FT-A "500" 1215.89 (-9.12)

FT Gold Mines 267.8 (-0.1)

FT Fixed Interest 88.59 (-0.01)

FT Govt Secs 76.93 (-0.03)

Recent issues 24 Closing prices Page 33

STOCK MARKETS

RISSES

Hardy Oil & Gas 196p (+10p)

Sant Chemicals 1400p (+14p)

Camford Eng 308p (+46p)

FALLS

Fine Art Devs 230p (-27p)

SET 220p (-1.7p)

FKB 115p (-15p)

MAM 655p (-10p)

Trusthouse Forte 268p (-10p)

Rothmans 'B' 614p (-10p)

Davies & Newman 525p (-20p)

Eurotel Units 55p (-15p)

A Cossen 600p (-20p)

S Miller 73p (-15p)

Allied Lyons 443.2p (-8p)

Bass 963p (-10p)

Grand Met 560p (-10p)

Scottish TV 501p (-10p)

Royal Bank 482p (-12p)

Closing prices 214.50

SEAG Volume 379.51

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base 15%

3-month Interbank 15.4-15.5%

3-month Eurodollar 14.5-14.8%

US Prime Rate 10%

Federal Funds 8.4%

3-month Treasury Bills 7.79-7.8%

30-year bonds 9.9-9.9%

CURRENCIES

London: New York: £ 1.6555

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# Markheath makes £63m hostile bid for Camford

By Jeremy Andrews

Markheath Securities, the British property vehicle of Mr John Spalvins, the Australian entrepreneur, has launched a £63.8 million hostile offer for Camford Engineering, the car component maker.

The bid was widely expected as Markheath has a 29.9 per cent stake in Camford, but Camford shares still shot up 64p to 308p, 3p ahead of the all-cash offer.

Mr Paul Bobroff, Markheath's managing director, denied the bid was solely about Camford's property — the company has a £30 million vacant site at Stevenage, Hertfordshire.

He said he was concerned that Camford was over-dependent on British car makers, and Markheath had sought board representation in order to protect its interests.

This approach had been rebuffed. "In those circumstances", he said, "the proper course of action is to make a cash offer at a generous price, which is what we have done."

The 305p terms represent a 25 per cent premium over Camford's price beforehand and are equivalent to 16 times its earnings per share of 18.8p in the year to September.

Mr Brian Cox, Camford's chairman, said the offer was inappropriate and inadequate and the board was advising shareholders to reject it. He

dismissed the criticism that Camford was not geared up for the opportunities of the single European market.

He said: "Our major customers are Ford and General Motors who have been arranging their component supplies on a European basis for quite a few years."

He added the prospects for British component manufacturers had been improved by the weakening of sterling against the mark and the arrival of Japanese car builders.

Camford, which makes heavy pressings such as cross members and axles, had a better record than some others in the car industry, Mr Cox said. When he arrived from Barclays Merchant Bank in 1982, the shares stood at 7p and the sharp rise since reflected Camford's record of annual earnings growth of 30 per cent, sustained subsequently.

Markheath opposed Camford's plans to sell the Stevenage site and last month raised £45.4 million via a placing and open offer which doubled its share capital. Mr Spalvins' Adelaide Steamship maintained its 49.9 per cent stake in the company and the balance was conditionally placed with Howard Smith, an Australian company linked to Adsteam. As a result, Adsteam has a direct and indirect stake of 70.3 per cent in Markheath.



Protecting interests: Paul Bobroff of Markheath yesterday

## Profit jump at Indmar

Fife Indmar, the Scottish engineering group, more than doubled pre-tax profits from £509,000 to £1.21 million in 1989. The dividend is 4.13p (6.75p). Turnover rose from £14.9 million to £23.1 million and earnings per share from 6.15p to 9.12p.

### Macro 4 rise

Pre-tax profits at Macro 4 increased by 18.1 per cent to £3.28 million in the six months to end-December. Turnover climbed 18.2 per cent to £6.94 million. The interim dividend is boosted to 3.7p (1.9p). Earnings per share rose 16.3 per cent to 9.2p.

### Polypipe ahead

Polypipe's pre-tax profits rose 34.4 per cent to £5.08 million in the six months to end-December on sales up 14.6 per cent to £33.7 million. The interim dividend rises 20 per cent to 1.1p on earnings per share up 22 per cent to 4.92p.

### Whitbread sale

Whitbread has sold its 27 public houses in Scotland to Allen Partnership of Sussex for £9.25 million in cash.

### BP reorganizes

A reorganization will result in a staff saving of about 10 per cent in BP Singapore.

### Lazard Brothers

In the first edition of *The Times* yesterday, evidence submitted to the Energy Select Committee on the privatization of the electricity industry by the merchant bank Lazard Brothers, the financial adviser to the Central Electricity Generating Board and to National Power, was wrongly attributed to Kleinwort Benson, the financial adviser to the Government.

## Takare payout up 170% after profits are doubled

By Melinda Wittstock

Takare, the fast-growing nursing home specialist which joined the full list last May after only one year on the Third Market, has more than doubled its profits for 1989.

It reported a 107 per cent pre-tax profit rise to £2.15 million on turnover up 44.4 per cent to £8.45 million. Eps climbed 59 per cent to 18.1p.

Shareholders have been rewarded by a 170 per cent rise in the total dividend to 2.7p. Mr Keith Bradshaw, the chairman, said the rate of dividend growth is unlikely to be as fast, given the need to reinvest profits for further expansion.

Takare, which has more than 1,000 beds in operation, expects to have another 700 by the year-end and 4,000 by the end of 1991.

The company still has £3 million cash from the £12.6 million raised at the time of its full-list debut. It also may draw additional funds from a long-term debenture facility. Mr Bradshaw said there were no plans for a rights issue.

Takare has also won contracts with five more health authorities for 570 beds at six sites. Mr Bradshaw said

Takare is geared to taking any patient who is clinically dependent, whether referred privately or through the NHS or DSS.

For the moment, Takare is

limiting its expansion to Britain where 60 per cent of the 1.2 million people expected to be over the age of 85 in the year 2000 will be physically or mentally infirm.

Another 8.8 million will be over 65.

Mr Bradshaw said: "If you set this against an existing continuing-care provision of 160,000 beds in both the private and public sector, it is clear that an enormous shortfall exists which can only get worse as the decade progresses and which cannot be answered by the [NHS reform] White Paper's general wish to direct more resources towards domiciliary care."

Holders of Hanson convertible loan and preference stock have rushed to convert their holdings into ordinary shares.

Hanson says it has received 92.46 per cent conversion rate from holders of the convertible loan stock and a 97.03 per cent conversion from holders of the preference issue. Hanson has applied to list an additional 839.88 million of its shares on the Stock Exchange. This will take the group's total issued capital to 4.78 billion shares.

The high level of acceptances followed Hanson's forecast of the likely dividend it would pay this year.

The mechanics of the conversion give Hanson a pre-tax profits "kicker" of about £97.6 million.

## Royal stands by for £85m weather costs

By Graham Searjeant, Financial Editor

Royal Insurance expects losses due to bad weather in Britain so far this year to cost it about £85 million, about £50 million more than it would expect to pay in times of ice and snow.

Claims for the January storms have reached 165,000 — as many as the total for the 1987 hurricane — at a gross cost of £150 million, but the net cost comes down to £35 million due to reinsurance.

But Royal is estimating for a possible further maximum £35 million for the recent storms and floods, although Mr Ian Rushton, the chief executive, said it was too early to tell if this would be needed.

High claims for subsidence

in Britain from the dry summer contrived to give Royal a poor, almost profitless, fourth quarter of 1989, adding to the £35 million cost of Hurricane Hugo in the US, and earthquakes in San Francisco and New South Wales.

Group profits tumbled from £223 million to £126 million, despite a 25 per cent rise in investment income. Profits were hit after a £26 million loss (£7 million profit) for Royal's estate agency business which has been cut from a peak of 831 branches to 760.

Royal has raised its dividend 13.3 per cent to 25.5p for the year, despite eps falling from 32.1p to 18.6p.

Tempus, page 24

## Slimline Banks

John Banks, chairman of advertising agency Young and Rubicam, was on a starvation diet last night. Something of a fitness fanatic — a year ago he opened up a staff health food restaurant, Giovanni's, in Young and Rubicam's Camden headquarters, as well as a gymnasium run by ex-Royal Navy PT instructor Mike Large — Banks reveals that he has had a bat with an old friend that he would lose some 20lb or so before his next skiing holiday. "The weight is in Geneva tomorrow morning and, even though I've been running three miles every day, I've still got two pounds to go," he laments. "There's a lot of money riding on it. If I'm just two pounds over the target it will cost me £100."

Banks says that he installed the gym and restaurant because he wanted "to improve the quality of life for people here," and already 345 of his 600 staff who are based in London are members of the gymnasium. "It's full between seven and nine in the mornings, at lunchtimes and in the evening," he adds, with a certain understandable satisfaction.

Police in Zurich, one of the world's wealthiest cities, are

now under orders to confiscate

the takings of people they

catch begging in the smart

shopping mall at the foot of

the elegant Bahnhofstrasse.

Not only will their money be

taken away, but unless they

remove their sleeping bags and

cardboard boxes, these too will

be ripped up by the police.

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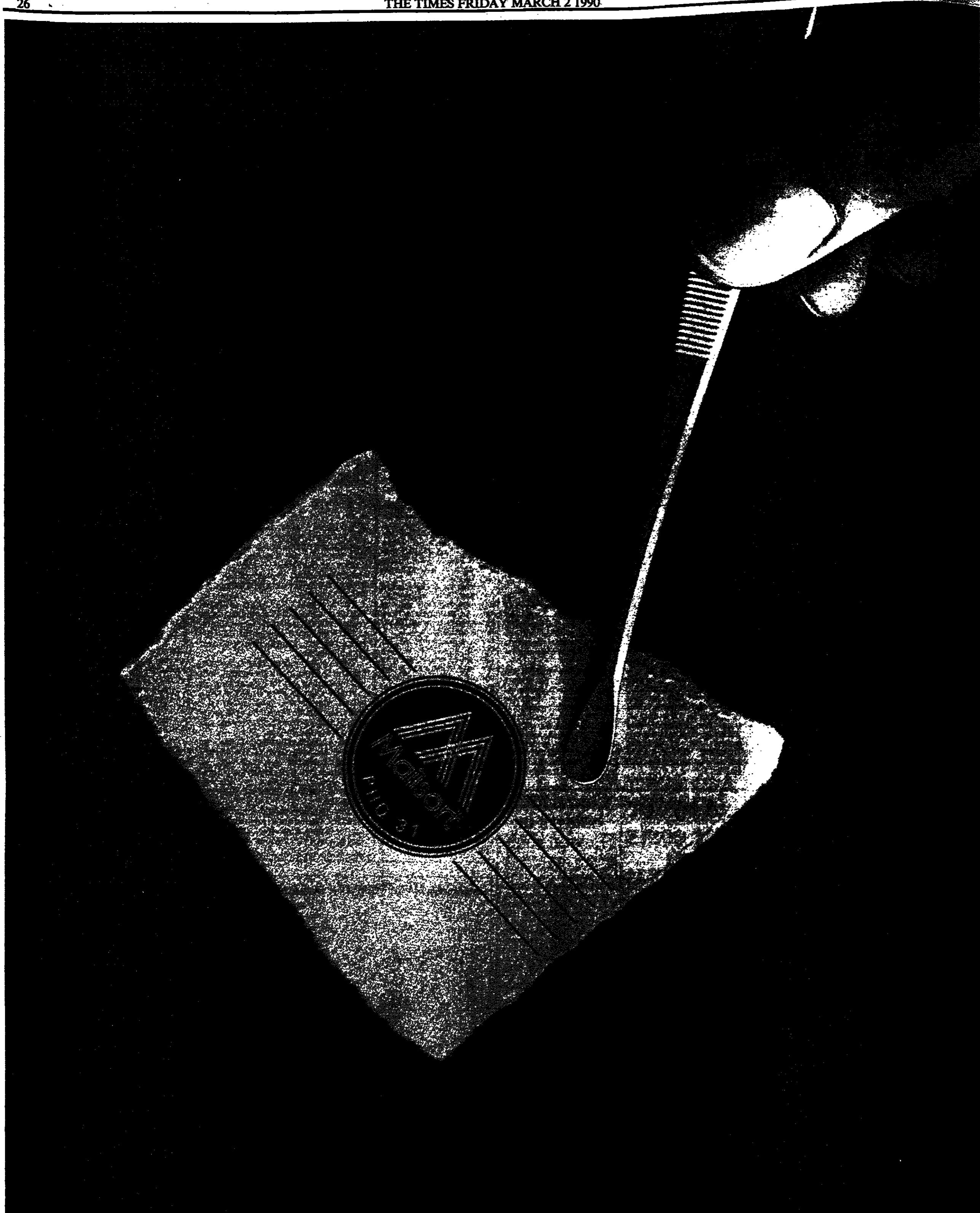
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## BUSINESS LETTERS

## Courts need clear policy on Law of Negligence

From Mr V. William Taylor Sir, Although I spend a considerable portion of my life in teaching others about the Law of Negligence, I find myself somewhat at a loss.

It appears that Messrs Touche Ross & Co, a firm of Chartered Accountants, who, it is alleged, approved annual accounts for a public company showing a profit of £1.3m instead of a loss of £400,000 are not responsible to persons who buy the company or even those who hold shares in the company. (*The Times*, February 12, Caparo Industries Plc v Dickman and Others).

We do not know what audit fees were, but we may take them to be very considerable. The House of Lords found that there was no "voluntary assumption of liability" to the shareholders, or prospective purchasers, in the publication of the accounts including the report of the auditors.

It must be stated that Neg-

ligence has not been proved since the case arose on a preliminary point of law.

It also appears that a surveyor of a ship, and the publisher of the report as to its condition, are not liable to the purchaser of that vessel, even if the report is substantially inaccurate. (*The Times*, February 21, Mariola Marine Corporation v Lloyd's Register of Shipping (The Morning Watch).

The fee paid to the surveyor is not disclosed, but it is no secret that marine surveying is expensive.

Mr Justice Phillips found that Lloyd's made "no voluntary assumption of the responsibility" to the plaintiff.

In both cases, reference is made to the decision of the House of Lords in *Smith v Bush* (1989), where valuers were found liable to the purchaser of a house when acting for the lender of money.

In both *Smith v Bush* and

*Harris v Wyre Forest (DC)* (which were heard together) there were express disclaimers of responsibility - which were held to be ineffective.

In the Court of Appeal in *Harris's Case*, such a disclaimer had been held to deny the acceptance of the "voluntary assumption of liability" which features so largely in the two new cases. This was reversed in the Lords.

The fees paid for the valuations were £36.89 by Mrs Smith and £22 by Mr Harris.

I am trying to understand what the policy of the courts is in these matters.

It appears that the greater the fee, the wider the publication, and the greater the number of people potentially at risk, the less the responsibility for the negligent statement.

If I am right, this is a curious policy!

I am also concerned as to whether the Courts ought to

have a policy in such matters. This would seem to be arrogating to themselves a degree of legislative power which might properly be considered to be the prerogative of Parliament.

Courts must have enough policy to ensure that their decisions are consistent (which seems to have failed in these cases).

I doubt their right to have the power to say "as a matter of policy" that valuers of houses are liable for economic loss caused by negligent words, but that Chartered Accountants and Lloyd's Register of Shipping are not.

They have never stated such a policy, but I find the inference inescapable.

Yours faithfully,  
V. WILLIAM TAYLOR,  
Chartered surveyor,  
4 Charlton Road,  
Wantage,  
Oxon.

February 21.

## We did everything we could to prevent Dominion collapse

From Mr R. A. Galliers-Pratt and Mr N. K. Cayer Sir, On February 1, 1990, in an article headed "Barnett was edged out of Dominion", you attributed to Mr John Clarke, a non-executive director of Dominion International Group, the statement that he believed that we had contributed to the collapse of Dominion.

Mr Clarke was reported as saying that there was "no obvious foundation" to allegations which we had asked, as directors, to be investigated by Lord Barnett, then chairman of the company.

In the autumn of 1988 we expressed serious concerns about the management of Dominion to Lord Barnett who was then the Deputy Chairman of Dominion.

This resulted in Lord Barnett exchanging roles with Mr Max Lewinsohn, who was

then the Chairman, and in Lord Barnett agreeing at our request to investigate certain specific matters. Those allegations were supported by a written statement made by a past director of Dominion. Our intention was to secure a change in the management of Dominion.

Lord Barnett found with one exception no suggestion of justifiable criticism arising from the allegations. Because of our agreement with Dominion we had to accept the result of Lord Barnett's investigation at the time but we believed that the investigation was inadequate.

No management changes

were made until July 1989 and in our view this prevented remedial action being taken to restore Dominion's fortunes. The Company's shares were suspended in September of that year and Administrators

were appointed in January 1990.

Far from contributing to the demise of Dominion by investigating a spurious investigation, we did everything we could to prevent its collapse. Subsequent events have since vindicated our concerns. We have now been informed that the Administrators of Dominion are carrying out a thorough investigation into these matters.

Yours faithfully,

R. A. GALLIERS-PRATT

and N. K. CAYER,  
43 Dover Street,  
London, W1.

February 26.

• Neither *The Times* nor Mr Clarke ever meant to suggest that Lord Barnett's investigation was instigated for spurious reasons or that it in any way helped precipitate the collapse of Dominion.

be in a position to recognize or support small, worthwhile ventures from the man in the street.

The Government could greatly assist small businesses by encouraging the high street clearing banks to spend more of their time and money on start-up concerns, perhaps by

agreeing to offset such money spent, from corporation tax that the Treasury normally requires.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN AIDINANTZ,  
Sherlock Holmes Museum,  
221B Baker Street,  
London, NW1.

February 19.

Letters to *The Times* Business and Finance section can be sent by fax on (01) 782 5112.

Paladin's management refused to make any comment.

## Awaiting the thud of falling trusts

From Mr David Shamash Sir, The BZW Convertible Investment Trust received a strong recommendation in your *Tempus* column both when floated in January and again on February 26.

While I agree that in themselves convertible stocks are an excellent investment, I fear that the BZW Trust will suffer from the very fact that it is an Investment Trust and, like all such, trade at a considerable discount to the underlying value of its constituent stocks.

Thus it may have quite a way to fall from its present price of 97p, which is a mere 3 per cent below its issue price.

In his column, *Tempus* advised that "those tempted to take the plunge should at least wait until the market as a whole has bottomed out".

The earliest investment advice that I can recall was my father recounting the old saw that no one rings a bell when the market reaches its peak; what signal may be expected to indicate reaching bottom?

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID SHAMASH,  
34 Floral Street,  
London, WC2. February 27.

Letters to *The Times* Business and Finance section can be sent by fax on (01) 782 5112.

## Payout static as Philips advances to dull £718m

From Derek Harris, Eindhoven, The Netherlands

Philips Lamps, the electronics company which has been pushing through a reduced core and rationalization programme, has brought in full-year pre-tax profits of £2.3 billion guilders (£718 million), a 4 per cent increase, against last year's 4.3 per cent rise.

Courts must have enough policy to ensure that their decisions are consistent (which seems to have failed in these cases).

Allowing for disposals and netting out currency changes, the improvement on a comparable basis was 4.7 per cent, down from the 5 per cent seen the year before.

The period saw sales rise 2 per cent to Dfl57.2 billion, although on a comparable basis the increase showed a 7 per cent gain. The results were below some market expectations and the dividend stays at Dfl2 million, (Dfl353 million profit).

The professional products and systems division, of which information and communication systems form a part, made a profit of only Dfl40 million (Dfl368 million). The systems were hit by heavier competition in the telecommunications market, while in computers, Philips was hit by a faster-than-expected shift away from minicomputers to personal computers. The company's

shares covering Philips UK. However, the indications were that sales of the British operation were running at about £1.1 billion, with losses of about £30 million apparently reflecting the costs of the organizational changes.

Mr van der Kluft was speaking after the announcement of a series of management changes which will bring a team largely in their mid-fifties to the fore at Philips. The president is to retire aged 65 in July next year.

Appointed in 1986, he has headed sweeping changes at Philips and will be succeeded by Mr Jan Timmer, head of the consumer electronics division. Mr Timmer said: "We shall continue the line we have been following. With the right management and attitudes, and the will to win, problems can be overcome."

## New price regime 'is incentive to waste gas'

## British Gas criticized over industrial tariffs

By David Young  
Energy Correspondent

A new British Gas price structure for industry has been criticized as environmentally unfriendly by Ofgas, the government-appointed watchdog.

Mr James McKinnon, director general of Ofgas, said the point at which industrial customers could switch from taking supplies on the nationally-set tariff to supplies on the first rung of the national range of industrial contract prices was still too high.

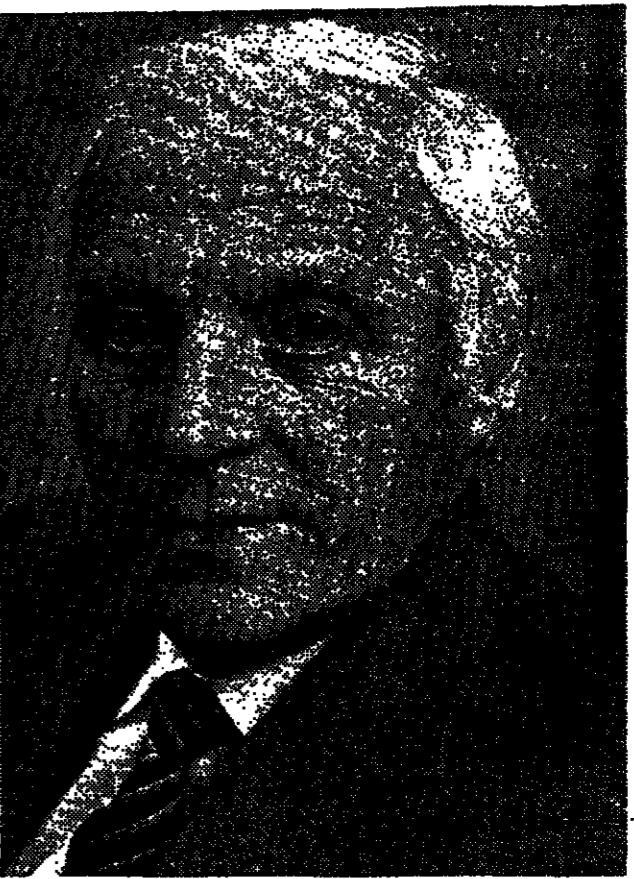
British Gas has announced new lower prices for industrial customers taking more than 15,000 therms of tariff gas.

But according to Mr McKinnon, the price differential between tariff and contracts prices, although now narrowed, means that some companies taking just under 25,000 therms a year at tariff rates could find it cheaper to take more gas than they actually need to take them into the contract price regime.

This gas, says Ofgas, is wastefully used and creates unnecessary emissions.

Mr McKinnon said: "Unfortunately, there is still not a completely smooth transition between the tariff and contract markets, and the existence of the price differential means that the incentive to waste gas remains."

It is also regrettable that the 15,000 therm cut-off chosen by British Gas gives only a very small proportion of commercial and industrial customers in the tariff sector the benefit of lower prices. By adopting a cut-off point at a lower level, for example 5,000 therms a year, British Gas



"Benefit for the few": James McKinnon, Ofgas director general could bring keener prices to a greater proportion of small businesses in this sector of the market."

Mr McKinnon, whose remit does not cover the setting of contract prices but does cover overseeing the formula under which tariff prices are linked to the inflation rate, added: "I will continue to press British Gas to adopt a lower limit and establish a more realistic dividing line between the

tariff and contracts market."

Mr McKinnon said the pricing formula for domestic customers had stood the test of time and inflation.

The formula had worked to the benefit of consumers, bringing them a 10 per cent real reduction in gas prices, he added.

## AAF restructured for growth

31 December 1989

## Earnings £3.0m

17.5p (+25.9%)

## Dividend Per Share 10.0p (+53.8%)

With two strongly performing operating companies, good depth of management and some £3m of high-yielding cash still to reinvest, AAF is confident of further progress in 1990.

## AAF Investment Corporation PLC

(Registered in England No. 550485)

Copies of the Preliminary Statement, which is being mailed to all shareholders, may be obtained from Ratteauhouse Registration Services Ltd, 34 Beckenham Road, Beckenham, Kent, BR3 4TL.

Telephone No. 01-650 4866.

The contents of this advertisement, for which the Directors of AAF Investment Corporation PLC are solely responsible, have been approved for the purposes of Section 57 of The Financial Services Act 1985, by an authorised person.

## THE TIMES STOCK WATCH

0898 141 141

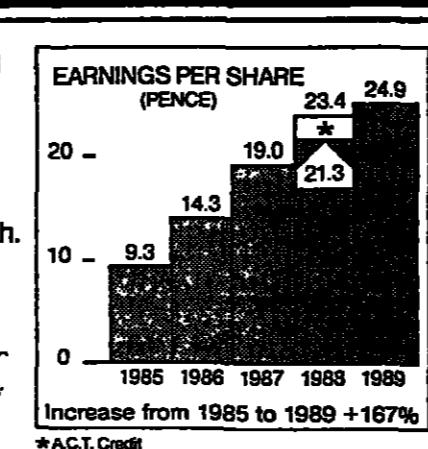
• The Stockwatch service gives readers instant telephone access to the prices of more than 13,000 shares, unit trusts and bonds.

• Stock market comment the general situation in the stock market can be obtained by ringing 0898 121220.

• Company news: items relating to company news can be obtained by telephoning 0898 121221.

• The prices of shares actively trading in the stock market may be obtained by telephoning 0898 121225.

• The telephone calls are charged at a rate of 38p per minute during peak times. During standard times, they are charged at 25p per minute. Charges include VAT.



## Mortgage Rate Change

AIB Bank announces that its Home Mortgage Rate will change to 15.5% with effect from close of business on 28th February, 1990. APR 16.5.



Bankcentre-Britain, Belmont Road, Uxbridge, Middlesex UB8 1SA. Telephone: (0895) 72222 and branches throughout the country.

Allied Irish Banks, p.l.c.

## A suitable case for encouraging banks to spot the winners

From the Finance Director, Sherlock Holmes Museum Sir, The banks may indeed be digging themselves into yet another hole with the Channel tunnel project (Bernard Levin, February 19), but the real loss for Britain is that as long as our bankers remain unable to spot "winners" they will never

be in a position to recognize or support small, worthwhile ventures from the man in the street.

The Government could greatly assist small businesses by encouraging the high street clearing banks to spend more of their time and money on start-up concerns, perhaps by

agreeing to offset such money spent, from corporation tax that the Treasury normally requires.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN AIDINANTZ,  
Sherlock Holmes Museum,  
221B Baker Street,  
London, NW1.

February 19.

Letters to *The Times* Business and Finance section can be sent by fax on (01) 782 5112.

Paladin's management refused to make any comment.

## Cadbury Schweppes MANAGEMENT PROVEN IN THE MARKET PLACE.

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As we're paying such high interest we ask that you leave your money untouched for 12 months. But the

interest is paid directly each month into a Leeds Liquid Gold account, so you have instant access to that.

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<input type="checkbox"/> I would like further details of the Leeds Special Edition account.	
<input type="checkbox"/> I would like further details of all Leeds Savings Accounts and increased interest rates.	

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\*Basic interest paid. Interest rates are variable. 13.08% C.A.R. calculated on the basis of £25,000 invested at 12.5% net per annum transferred to a Liquid Gold account to £1,225 p.a. earning 12.50% net if no withdrawals are made - an effective C.A.R. of 13.08%. It is also required within the 12 month period that the account must be closed with the loss of 10 days' interest. The following investment assumptions have been made: The Special Edition Account is opened with the entire sum with the Liquid Gold Account initially at zero balance. The investment is made on 1st January and the whole sum is returned for a full year. The CAR quoted covers the whole investment across the Special Edition and Liquid Gold Accounts. The interest remains unchanged from the current rate throughout the year on both accounts.

## WALL STREET

New York (Reuter) — The Dow Jones industrial average was ahead by 7 points to 2,634.25 in early dealing.

The belief that Wall Street has already discounted the renewed selling in Tokyo, helped prices to turn mixed after a poor opening.

Signs that the US economy was reviving and that no

recession was in sight helped some shares to gain. However, no cut in interest rates was expected soon.

• Singapore — The Straits Times industrial index retreated 4.01 to 1,546.05 after rising to 1,553.75 at the morning close. Prices closed broadly weaker in reduced volume on late selling.

Fears are growing that another big securities house will soon be forced to pull out of the London equity market following the dramatic fall in turnover since the start of the year.

The number of shares traded daily this week has failed to rise above 400 million and corporate activity has also slumped following the increase in interest rates and the downturn in the economy. Brokers have been complaining for sometime that there is not enough volume to support the number of brokers in the City and that other securities houses are likely to follow.

Morgan Grenfell and W

Greenwell withdrew.

Only 379 million shares

were traded yesterday as the

brokers' offices. Last night, it was the turn of Henderson Crosthwaite where it gave a presentation for a number of fund managers. But that did not stop its share price falling 6p to 734p.

Barclays rounded off the clearing banks' dividend season with some better-than-expected full-year figures.

These showed pre-tax profits down from £1.39 billion to £692 million with provisions totalling £983 million. Barclays has now reduced its exposure to Third World debt by £2 billion during the past year. The shares responded with a rise of 10p to 379p.

Contained in Barclays' figures were provisions for South African debts. This came as a

institution remained on the sidelines. The latest setback in Tokyo and further reflection on this week's poor trade

figures left the FT-SE 100 index nursing a fall of 17.0 at 2,238.4. The FT index of 30 shares lost 16.5 at 1,764.9. Dealers expect the FT-SE index to start testing the 2,200 level again within the next day or so.

Government securities suffered further heavy losses, losing as much as £1 at the longer end. The Thorn EMI price remained in freefall, losing another 17p to 680p with dealers convinced that it is about to make an important acquisition in the US.

The word is that the group want to buy a big record company and has set its sights on the privately-owned Geffen Records, which is now approaching the end of a distribution agreement with

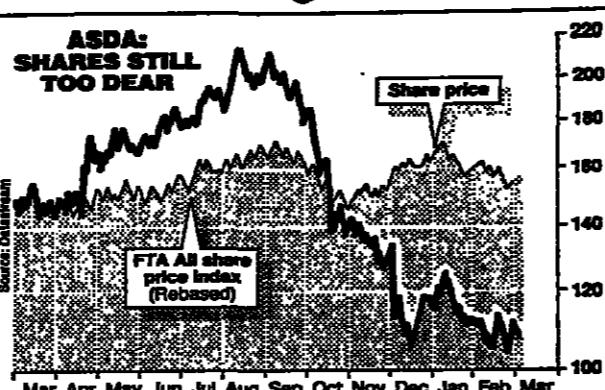
Time Warner Inc. Thorn already owns Capitol and EMI Music and has a stake in Chrysalis. Dealers say the deal could be worth as much as £750 million.

Carlton Communications

continued with its visits to

## STOCK MARKET

## Fears grow that another broker may withdraw



Royal blamed Hurricane Hugo, the San Francisco and Australian earthquakes and subsidence in this country following the dry summer. The shares dropped 12p to 483p.

Commercial Union reported a 25 per cent fall in profits on Wednesday, slipped 4p to 44p, while General Accident, which also revealed figures this week, lost 28p at £10.37. Fords were also seen in

Guardian Royal Exchange, down 4p at 236p, and Sun Alliance, 3p to 289p.

Asda, the supermarket chain, eased 1 1/2p to 108 1/2p,

reflecting a bearish circular from Morgan Stanley, the broker, which believes the shares are still overpriced.

The dollar ended Y1.26 higher at Y149.78 in spite of heavy intervention by the Bank of Japan. It was estimated to have sold \$1 billion to \$1.5 billion in an effort to

defuse the dollar's strength.

The delay in raising Japan's interest rates, while supporting share prices, has hit the yen. Currency traders said that the inability of Japan's ruling Liberal Democrats to form a cabinet quickly on Tuesday night has started speculation about internal squabbling and raised fears of political instability. Institutional inves-

tors, who believe that the US

economy is now strong enough to rule out a cut in US

interest rates, were heavy

sellers of the yen, pushing it to

within one-tenth of a yen of

the Y150 mark.

Japan's authorities are in a

dilemma. If they raise interest

rates to shore up the yen, they

could trigger further setbacks

in share prices. If they let the

yen slide, the loss of confi-

dence in the Japanese econ-

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prices.

Although the Bank of Japan

is worried about rocking an

already nervous stock market

it fears that the weak yen will

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inflation rate because prices of

imports will rise.

Mr Liam Newberg, an anal-

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said: "We are not at the bot-

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prises left. We think the

Bank of Japan's governor will

announce the (interest rate)

hike before his trip to Europe

on March 7 but, until then, the

market is going to be ner-

vous."

## TOKYO

## Yen slump helps push Nikkei down 762 points

From Joe Joseph, Tokyo

The yen's tumble on currency markets and profit-taking after two days of strong stock market gains pulled the rug from under Tokyo share prices. The Nikkei index fell 762.41 points — its eighth heaviest fall ever — to 33,829.58.

Dealers said the market, which had gained 1,200 points in the previous two days, became vulnerable as the dollar soared to within a fraction of the Y150 level and as bond prices weakened.

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announce the (interest rate)

hike before his trip to Europe

on March 7 but, until then, the

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vous."

Camford Engineering surged 62p to 308p following a

£64 million bid from Mark-

health Securities, the property

group which is 49.9 per cent

owned by Mr John Spalvin's

Adelaide Steamship. But

Camford called the offer inade-

quate. Markeath already

owns almost 30 per cent of

Camford. There was talk of

this week that Markeath

would make a move for

Frogmore Estates, where it

already has a 25 per cent

holding. Frogmore fell 16p to

414p on the news.

Michael Clark

Frankfurt (Reuter) — The DAX index fell 22.05 points, or 1.2 per cent, to 1,787.87.

Uncertainty about developments in East Germany continued to cloud the outlook, driving prices lower in thin trading.

Shares have followed a roller-coaster route this week, affected by alternating sentiment on German monetary union and external factors, including plunging Japanese prices. Prices here fell 0.8 per cent on Monday only to rise by 2 per cent during the next two days.

• Sydney — The All-Ordinaries Index finished 2.4 off at 1,570.6, but up from its low of 1,562.6. The market staged an afternoon rally to close only slightly weaker despite fears about National Australia's exposure to Bond

Brewing Holdings.

• Johannesburg — The overall share index fell to a preliminary close of 3,052 from Wednesday's 3,084, the all-gold index to 1,885 (1,919) and the industrial index to 2,983 (3,010).

The market closed mostly

lower amid minimal support.

## Royal Insurance

## 1989 PRELIMINARY RESULTS

## 13% Dividend Increase

■ Capital and Reserves increased by £529m to £2,663m, up 25%.

■ Net assets per share up from 441p to 546p.

■ Pre-tax trading Profit £126m (1988: £223m).

■ Earnings per share 18.6p (1988: 32.1p).

■ Premium income up over 19% to £4,743m.

■ Investment income up 25% to £522m.

The second half of 1989 saw an unprecedented series of significant losses with Hurricane Hugo, earthquakes in San Francisco and Australia and subsidence losses in the UK. Costing some £113m in total they adversely affected the pre-tax result for the year which was a profit of £126m compared to £223m in 1988.

## Royal Insurance

A full statement for the preliminary results for 1989 (of which the above is an extract) will be mailed to all shareholders, and is also available from Corporate Relations, Royal Insurance Holdings plc, 1 Cornhill, London EC2V 3QR. Please send me a copy of Royal Insurance's preliminary statement.

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## STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

# Equities retreat

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began February 26. Dealings end March 9. Contango day March 12. Settlement day March 19.  
5Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (as) denotes Alpha Stocks. (VOLUMES: PAGE 30).

# Portfolio

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No.	Company	Group	Gate or last	High	Low	Company	Price	Bid	Offer	Change	Open	Yield	Y/E	P/E
1	Ritson Group	Drapery, Stores	114.0	114.0	113.0	1000/90	114.0	113.0	113.0	-1.0	113.0	11.0	11.0	11.0
2	ADT (as)	Industrials A-D	113.0	113.0	112.0	1000/90	113.0	112.0	112.0	-1.0	112.0	11.0	11.0	11.0
3	Barloworld	Industrials A-D	112.0	112.0	111.0	1000/90	112.0	111.0	111.0	-1.0	111.0	11.0	11.0	11.0
4	Yorkshire Water	Water	111.0	111.0	110.0	1000/90	111.0	110.0	110.0	-1.0	110.0	11.0	11.0	11.0
5	Arrendale	Building, Roads	110.0	110.0	109.0	1000/90	110.0	109.0	109.0	-1.0	109.0	11.0	11.0	11.0
6	Lambert Howarth	Shoes, Leather	109.0	109.0	108.0	1000/90	109.0	108.0	108.0	-1.0	108.0	11.0	11.0	11.0
7	Amersham	Chemicals, Plas	108.0	108.0	107.0	1000/90	108.0	107.0	107.0	-1.0	107.0	11.0	11.0	11.0
8	SEBT	Technics	107.0	107.0	106.0	1000/90	107.0	106.0	106.0	-1.0	106.0	11.0	11.0	11.0
9	Double Head	Industrials A-D	106.0	106.0	105.0	1000/90	106.0	105.0	105.0	-1.0	105.0	11.0	11.0	11.0
10	Clarkeon (H)	Transport	105.0	105.0	104.0	1000/90	105.0	104.0	104.0	-1.0	104.0	11.0	11.0	11.0
11	Belvoir	Building, Roads	104.0	104.0	103.0	1000/90	104.0	103.0	103.0	-1.0	103.0	11.0	11.0	11.0
12	Marshall Cullen (as)	Newspapers, Pub	103.0	103.0	102.0	1000/90	103.0	102.0	102.0	-1.0	102.0	11.0	11.0	11.0
13	Wainford Wedge	Industrials A-Z	102.0	102.0	101.0	1000/90	102.0	101.0	101.0	-1.0	101.0	11.0	11.0	11.0
14	Overseas Text	Water	101.0	101.0	100.0	1000/90	101.0	100.0	100.0	-1.0	100.0	11.0	11.0	11.0
15	Quinton Group	Leisure	100.0	100.0	99.0	1000/90	100.0	99.0	99.0	-1.0	99.0	11.0	11.0	11.0
16	Buddington	Breweries	99.0	99.0	98.0	1000/90	99.0	98.0	98.0	-1.0	98.0	11.0	11.0	11.0
17	Hammerprint	Paper, Print, Adv	98.0	98.0	97.0	1000/90	98.0	97.0	97.0	-1.0	97.0	11.0	11.0	11.0
18	Roselough	Property	97.0	97.0	96.0	1000/90	97.0	96.0	96.0	-1.0	96.0	11.0	11.0	11.0
19	Levex	Industrials L-R	96.0	96.0	95.0	1000/90	96.0	95.0	95.0	-1.0	95.0	11.0	11.0	11.0
20	Upthorpe	Transport	95.0	95.0	94.0	1000/90	95.0	94.0	94.0	-1.0	94.0	11.0	11.0	11.0
21	Pitland Gurner	Shoes, Leather	94.0	94.0	93.0	1000/90	94.0	93.0	93.0	-1.0	93.0	11.0	11.0	11.0
22	Vivat	Drapery, Stores	93.0	93.0	92.0	1000/90	93.0	92.0	92.0	-1.0	92.0	11.0	11.0	11.0
23	Br Mohair	Textiles	92.0	92.0	91.0	1000/90	92.0	91.0	91.0	-1.0	91.0	11.0	11.0	11.0
24	Medeva	Industrials L-R	91.0	91.0	90.0	1000/90	91.0	90.0	90.0	-1.0	90.0	11.0	11.0	11.0
25	Admiral Comp	Electricals	90.0	90.0	89.0	1000/90	90.0	89.0	89.0	-1.0	89.0	11.0	11.0	11.0
26	Nat West (as)	Banks, Discount	89.0	89.0	88.0	1000/90	89.0	88.0	88.0	-1.0	88.0	11.0	11.0	11.0
27	Domino	Electricals	88.0	88.0	87.0	1000/90	88.0	87.0	87.0	-1.0	87.0	11.0	11.0	11.0
28	Wassell	Industrials A-Z	87.0	87.0	86.0	1000/90	87.0	86.0	86.0	-1.0	86.0	11.0	11.0	11.0
29	Brookes Hill	Industrials A-D	86.0	86.0	85.0	1000/90	86.0	85.0	85.0	-1.0	85.0	11.0	11.0	11.0
30	Newman Tanks	Building, Roads	85.0	85.0	84.0	1000/90	85.0	84.0	84.0	-1.0	84.0	11.0	11.0	11.0
31	Dalgay (as)	Foods	84.0	84.0	83.0	1000/90	84.0	83.0	83.0	-1.0	83.0	11.0	11.0	11.0
32	Br Synch	Industrials A-D	83.0	83.0	82.0	1000/90	83.0	82.0	82.0	-1.0	82.0	11.0	11.0	11.0
33	Leigh	Chemicals, Plas	82.0	82.0	81.0	1000/90	82.0	81.0	81.0	-1.0	81.0	11.0	11.0	11.0
34	Trinity Int'l	Newspapers, Pub	81.0	81.0	80.0	1000/90	81.0	80.0	80.0	-1.0	80.0	11.0	11.0	11.0
35	Torvis Perkins	Building, Roads	80.0	80.0	79.0	1000/90	80.0	79.0	79.0	-1.0	79.0	11.0	11.0	11.0
36	Indivis Match	Industrials E-K	79.0	79.0	78.0	1000/90	79.0	78.0	78.0	-1.0	78.0	11.0	11.0	11.0
37	Waddington	Property	78.0	78.0	77.0	1000/90	78.0	77.0	77.0	-1.0	77.0	11.0	11.0	11.0
38	Ley	Transport	77.0	77.0	76.0	1000/90	77.0	76.0	76.0	-1.0	76.0	11.0	11.0	11.0
39	Lookers	Motors/Aircraft	76.0	76.0	75.0	1000/90	76.0	75.0	75.0	-1.0	75.0	11.0	11.0	11.0
40	Levi (John J)	Foods	75.0	75.0	74.0	1000/90	75.0	74.0	74.0	-1.0	74.0	11.0	11.0	11.0
41	ADM	Industrials A-D	74.0	74.0	73.0	1000/90	74.0	73.0	73.0	-1.0	73.0	11.0	11.0	11.0
42	Peek	Electricals	73.0	73.0	72.0	1000/90	73.0	72.0	72.0	-1.0	72.0	11.0	11.0	11.0
43	Klece-Eze	Industrials E-K	72.0	72.0	71.0	1000/90	72.0	71.0	71.0	-1.0	71.0	11.0	11.0	11.0
44	Braway	Industrials A-D	71.0	71.0	70.0	1000/90	71.0	70.0	70.0	-1.0	70.0	11.0	11.0	11.0
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MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	Wkly Total
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## Pre-planning inquiries charge lawful

## Jury entitled to ask for tape measure

*Regina v. Richmond upon Thames London Borough Council, Ex parte McCarthy & Stone (Developments) Ltd*  
Before Lord Justice Slade, Lord Justice Mann and Sir David Crook-Johnson  
(Judgment February 28)

A local authority had the power by virtue of section 11(1) of the Local Government Act 1972 to make a reasonable charge for inquiries relating to speculative redevelopment or development proposals made by prospective purchasers of land.

The Court of Appeal so held in dismissing an appeal by the applicants, McCarthy & Stone (Developments) Ltd, from the refusal of Mr Justice Popplewell (*The Times* February 1, 1989) of the grant judicial review of the decision made by Richmond upon Thames London Borough Council, on October 27, 1987, not to revoke their policy of charging £25 for such inquiries.

Leave was granted to appeal to the House of Lords.

The 1972 Act provides by section 11(1): "(1) ... a local authority shall have power to do any thing (whether or not involving the expenditure, bettering or lending of money, or the acquisition or disposal of any property or rights) which is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive or incidental to, the discharge of any of their functions."

Mr Anthony Scrivener, QC and Mr Richard Rundell for the applicants; Miss Elizabeth Appleby, QC and Mr David Mole for the council.

LORD JUSTICE SLADE, giving the judgment of the court,

said that it was common practice for persons contemplating proposals for development or redevelopment to seek the informal views of the officers of the planning authority so as to discover whether the proposals were likely to be acceptable.

The application for pre-planning consultation was not granted. The process, however, inevitably absorbed time on the part of the council officers concerned.

The applicant developers questioned the legality of the charge and asked the council to reconsider their policy.

It was common ground that the council could only do what statute required them to do or permitted them to do.

The statutory provision relied on by the council was section 11(1) of the Local Government Act 1972.

If the doing of any thing was to be authorized by that subsection, the thing must be "calculated to facilitate" or "conducive or incidental" to the discharge of one or more of the council's functions.

The developers did not dispute that the provision by the council of the relevant facilities for consultation were themselves "calculated to facilitate" or "conducive or incidental" to the discharge of the council's functions.

In the present case, however, the legislature had specifically conferred on planning authorities neither a duty nor a power to give pre-application advice. The power to give such advice was itself merely a subsidiary power, enjoyed by the local authority by virtue of section 11(1).

That subsection conferred the power to do anything conducive

or incidental to the discharge of the authority's functions. The authority would be acting beyond the powers conferred by the subsection if it regarded an in itself.

Within those limits, however, and the further restrictions imposed by section 11(1)(3), the broader language in subsection (1) made it clear that it was by no means an objection that the activity or transaction in question would involve the receipt of money by the local authority.

The court did not accept that section 11(1) in so far as it conferred a local authority to impose charges for providing goods or services.

In the present case all that the council were doing was to state, on a take it or leave it basis, to potential applicants who invited the council to enter into pre-application consultations, that they were willing to make an arrangement of that kind if, as part and parcel of the arrangement, they were paid a stated, reasonable, fee by way of reimbursement for their expenses.

It was clearly open to the council to regard the making of such an arrangement as falling within the subsidiary powers conferred on them by section 11(1), provided only that such an arrangement was not objectionable on Wednesday.

In the present case the introduction of the fee system could not possibly be attacked on such grounds.

Solicitors: Metson Cross & Co, Mr George R. Cheshire, Twickenham.

Regina v. Maggs  
Before Lord Lane, Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice Hirst and Mr Justice Kennedy  
(Judgment February 27)

A surveyor's tape given to a jury in retirement without objection on the ground that the surveyor had made a mistake in giving them fresh evidence or equipment enabling them to carry out unsupervised scientific experiments and so did not constitute a material irregularity invalidating a conviction for causing death by reckless driving.

Regina v. Stewart  
Before Lord Lane, Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice Hirst and Mr Justice Kennedy  
(Judgment February 27)

The court did not accept that the surveyor's tape given to a jury in retirement without objection on the ground that the surveyor had made a mistake in giving them fresh evidence or equipment enabling them to carry out unsupervised scientific experiments and so did not constitute a material irregularity invalidating a conviction for causing death by reckless driving.

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## MOTORING

## A hit, but old image still dogs Rover

A prestige motoring magazine award should put the British car-maker on the road to recovering its reputation

**S**ir Graham Day once said it took a company one year to lose its reputation... and 10 years to win it back. He should know because he took on one of the most unavoidable jobs in British motoring, running the ailing oil BL conglomerate.

Not only had the former British Leyland lost its reputation, it spent year after year compounding the problem with a succession of lacklustre products. And when the product was good, the reliability was often awful.

The stigma damages the company, now renamed Rover and split into the car group and Land-Rover.

When Land-Rover's new Discovery was launched, a potential buyer, prompted by rave magazine reviews, asked my views because he was in the market for a four-wheel-drive vehicle and his choice was between a Toyota and the Land-Rover.

I told him the Discovery was going to be a classic, handed over a pile of brochures and left him to it.

Two weeks later, he returned. "Wow, that Discovery is amazing," he told me. "It is a class leader in every department."

So he bought one? No, he

bought the Toyota. Why? Simply because he did not trust the Discovery to be as reliable as he believed the Toyota would be.

That image, which has built up over the years, has cost Land-Rover not just one sale, but possibly many. Rover cars, too, often suffer the same fate. A MORI poll of 30 British motoring correspondents this week showed that half of them believed Rover would lose market share after 1992, when the single Euro-pan market arrives.

One stated reason was that it had "generally poor products with a poor reputation".

Why the gloom? Day has brought the business through the years of misery to a potentially bright future — a future which was given just the right boost this week at the *What Car?* awards.

Judges chose the specialist magazine's choice the Rover 214 from a clutch of foreign models as their top car for 1990, over competition including the BMW 5 series, Mercedes SL, Nissan 200 SX — even the amazing Land-Rover Discovery.

The Rover company really did not need telling that its little 200 series was a good car, but confirmation from the outside



Rover 214, 16-valve GSi model: quality car but confirmation from the outside world is what its makers need

world is what it craves more than anything else.

The award is a tribute to Day's policy of refusing to worry about market share. While Ford has dominated sales and Vauxhall taken the number two spot, critics carp that Rover has fallen behind because market share is down from 18 per cent to a shade over 13 per cent.

Day says he does not care because he is moving upmarket to a position in which Rover can sell

fewer better cars for more profit.

Take the 200 series. There has been no attempt at aggressive pricing, yet the order books for 216 derivatives is seven months long and, for 214 models, about two months.

How long is it since there was a waiting list for a car coming from BL or Rover factories?

There are plenty of disgruntled customers who will not wait, but Rover can only offer sympathy; it refuses to increase assembly line

speeds without guarantees that the car is produced at the highest quality.

Day has made quality the car's virtue, which is why there is such demand. Get inside and you step into a cabin which would not be out of place in a car costing £3,000 or £4,000 more. The door shuts with a reassuring chunk, surely something that only goes into executive cars?

Surprisingly, recent magazine

## THE CARS THAT MATTER

The British took most of the prizes to back up the Rover 214's Car of the Year title. Ford, with its Dagenham Fiesta, and Vauxhall, with its British-made Cavalier and the West German-engineered Carlton, took category awards. Jaguar's Daimler forgot the worries of its huge recall of 155,000 cars world-wide to pick up the prize for best director's car. Judges considered test points as well as looking for engineering excellence and value for money.

Subsidary awards were: family car, Cavalier 2.0 GL; off-road vehicle, Land Rover Discovery; sporting car, Vauxhall Carlton 3000 GS; budget car, Ford Fiesta 1.0 Popular; small hatchback, Peugeot 205 1.1 GLS; performance hatchback, Renault 5 GT Turbo; estate, Subaru Legacy 2.2 GX; coupe, Nissan 200 SX; executive car, BMW 535i; and director's car, Daimler 4-litre.

tests have not compared the 216 with obvious competition like the Ford Escort, but with BMW's 316. They find it a worthy winner.

Most customers — about 70 per cent — have wanted the 1.6-litre Honda-powered version, for reasons of prestige and increased performance.

Dealers are trying to steer customers towards the 214 models with their new K-series engines developed in Britain and also made at Longbridge.

A memory-jogging drive in a 214 this week left me wondering why there should be resistance to the smaller engine. It is punchy, economical and also falls into a lower tax bracket for company-car drivers starting to worry about what the Chancellor may do in his March 20 Budget.

Little wonder then that the *What Car?* judging team also believed that the compact 214 — really the first Rover to be developed and launched under the wing of the privatized business — should be Car of the Year.

At the same time, the company is gearing up for a replacement for the little Metro, after 10 years of being the company's biggest seller with 4,800 a week still rolling off the assembly lines.

**O**utput of the Rover 200 will double to 5,000 a week in early summer and the company is on target to increase overseas sales to more than 30 per cent of production — making it Britain's biggest exporter of cars. Profits are up.

For Day and his team at Rover, led by the managing director, George Simpson, it is a welcome vindication of their determination to press ahead with a policy of moving quietly and slowly up-market in defiance of critics who said it could not be done.

So maybe Day's time has come. Perhaps the 10 years are over and Rover is ready to win back its reputation.

## Booklet to give the right lead on lead

**A**s the confusion over unleaded petrol continues, help is at hand for motorists who want their cars to use the new "green" fuel, but still harbour doubts.

Autodata, a top publisher of technical information for the motor industry, is offering its authoritative *Unleaded Petrol Guide* through *The Times*. The 128-page booklet lists more than 1,800 models to give a complete rundown on which cars can use unleaded immediately, which need adjustment and which must continue with conventional four-star petrol.

There is also an easy-to-understand outline of why unleaded has been introduced, how engines work, why they can or cannot use

the new fuel and the toxic exhaust emissions at the centre of debate in Britain and Europe.

The guide has been available since last year, when it was given the backing of the Campaign for Lead Free Air and Virginia Bottomley, then junior environment minister and a vigorous campaigner for unleaded fuel.

Unfortunately, Autodata was unable to gain widespread distribution through retail stores. It is now available at substantial reduction on the £2.99 retail price.

Send a cheque (made out to Autodata Ltd) or postal order to *The Times* special offer, Autodata Ltd, Prior's Way, Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 2HP. The £1.95 price includes postage and packing.



Fabulous Ferrari set for a record

While the rest of us are turning grey counting out the mortgage repayments, the seriously rich are worrying about how quickly they can get to the bank to pay the world's highest auction price for a classic Ferrari. Demand for such cars shows no sign of abating and Christie's is going to Monaco on May 22 to find a buyer for what is about to become one of the world's most exclusive cars. The 1957 Ferrari 315S (above) is one of only five built by the late Enzo Ferrari at his

Modena factory in northern Italy. One of the last of the front-engined racers, the 315S has 3.8 litres — enough power to give Ferrari its fourth world championship victory. Drivers such as Mike Hawthorn have set behind the wheel. A price of about £3 million is being suggested. This would be well over the previous record £2.5 million, paid for a Bugatti Royale, but still below the £4.0 million spent by a Japanese businessman on a Ferrari 250 GTO last year.

## ROADWISE

**■** Mini enthusiasts get together for a nostalgic barge at Ocean Village, Southampton on April 2 to celebrate 30 years' production.

**■** The romance between Sue Robinson and her Rover 200 was all too brief. Wrecked by Rover's television advertising, based on *77 the Graduate* movie (which features Mrs Robinson), she bought one. A visit to the local garage for a quick repair proved tragic — the car was stolen. The garage gave the appropriately named Miss Robinson a demonstrator to ease her pain.

**■** Mercedes-Benz drivers are to get a breath of fresh air, thanks to a new filter system being fitted to the company's sedans. The filters take smog, dust and odours out of the outside air before they reach the passenger-cabin.

## Hyundai sales drive

**■** Hyundai plans a sales drive to underline success at selling more than 61,000 cars in Britain since launch eight years ago. A new two-plus-two, previewed at last October's Motorfair, and replacements for the company's Pony range, arrive this summer. Sales could exceed 11,000 this year.

**■** Miles Cars, the tiny kit-car company, which I reported was in liquidation, has been saved. The buyer is Pasticke Cars, a "marathon" manufacturer, which plans to move production from Corby, Northamptonshire, to its Nottingham headquarters, and increase total production from 300 cars a year to about 450.

**■** A new computer link between eight leading insurers could lead to a 10 per cent drop in premiums. Policy Master, a Midlands company, which developed the system, says 40 per cent of quotations are sent back because of costly errors.

## CAR ACCESSORIES &amp; SERVICES

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## YACHTING

# Finnish skipper is under attack from fellow yachtsmen

From Barry Pickthall, Punta del Este, Uruguay

As the capsized hull of the Finnish Whitbread Round the World Race entry, Martela OF, was being towed towards Mar del Plata by an Argentinian Coastguard ship yesterday, Markku Wilken, the skipper of the abandoned yacht, faced renewed criticism in Punta del Este for continuing to race after he knew that the keel had worked loose.

"He is mad. He placed the lives of 15 crew at risk, just for the sake of a race," Harry Karkkila, the skipper of Belmont, Finland, said on arrival here yesterday.

Before the keel snapped off on Monday, successive plots from the Argos satellite system, tracking the fleet, showed the Finnish crew were pushing their boat at more than 11 knots, despite the fact that her

crew were living on deck for two days before the accident, fearing that the keel could break at any time.

Wilken said: "When the boat was not sailing, we could feel and hear the keel moving.

When there was some pressure on the sails, it felt safer to continue sailing, because the keel did not move. We did not know how serious the situation was. We had sailed for five days during the first leg with a similar problem. It was a surprise to us when the keel snapped off because we were reaching moderately calm conditions."

However, Peter Blake, the leading skipper on Steinlager, has called it "criminal" to lose the yacht in this way. Karkkila said: "They could have saved the boat if they

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## TELEVISION SPORT

# Viewers may force the Government to alter plan

By Richard Evans

The Government could suffer electronically if television viewers were prevented from seeing big events on BBC and ITV. Michael Checkland, the director general of the BBC, said yesterday.

His warning came only hours after Government ministers had indicated that MPs might persuade the Government to amend controversial plans to sell off television rights to 10 "listed" sporting events to the highest bidder.

The auction plan in the Broadcasting Bill would mean that Sky and British Satellite Broadcasting would be able to buy exclusive rights to such prestige occasions as the Wimbledon tennis championships, the FA Cup final and the Derby. The BBC and ITV would not be able to screen them.

Checkland told a broadcasting conference in London: "Viewers and voters in the United Kingdom will not be impressed if, like the recent Tyson v Douglas heavyweight fight which aroused so much interest, they are ever unable to see major sport on terrestrial services available to all."

Sky Television, which screened the fight, firmly refused a BBC offer to show it on Sportsight several days after the live transmission, Checkland said.

He denied that the BBC's concern about listed events

was self-serving or an institutional knee-jerk reaction. "Let me stress that we are not seeking the exclusive right to show these events live," he said.

"We would simply like to ensure that, as events of national significance and appeal, they remain accessible to the nation as a whole as well as newly available to satellite and cable services rightly bringing new sources of income to sports right holders."

"It is a question of public policy and the interests of viewers. We have now all heard what happened last year with Wimbledon. Both the singles champions were German, yet only half of their compatriots had the opportunity to witness their achievement."

David Mellor, the Home Office minister responsible for broadcasting, is well aware that the proposal to sell off sports rights to the highest bidder could prove politically unpopular.

However, if Conservative MPs on the Broadcasting Bill Committee are sufficiently vocal the Government might back down.

Among the 10 events of national importance to which the BBC and ITV have access are the Boat Race, the Grand National, the FA Cup final, the Derby and the Wimbledon tennis championships.

## AMERICAN FOOTBALL

## New venture put on ice for a year

By Richard Wetherell

Three days after announcing a reorganized schedule, the International League of American Football (ILAF) has decided to postpone its first programme until 1991. The ILAF season was expected to start in April with teams based in Amsterdam, Barcelona, Birmingham, Helsinki, London, Milan, Munich and Rome. The number was reduced to six when the Italian teams dropped out because of the clash with football's World Cup.

The delay is caused by "logistical difficulties" in obtaining work permits for the Americans players and coaches and problems over television coverage in Europe.

Steve Gerrish, a League spokesman, said: "I don't think it was a lack of preparation, but things we couldn't foresee in logistics and paperwork."

Deposits have been put down for use of the venues, and contracts concerning the grounds will have to be reorganized. The players and coaches have been invited to get in touch with the ILAF if they wish to remain on the "active list".

## BASEBALL

## Lockout continues as talks reach stalemate

New York (AP) — The chief negotiator for the major-league owners believes positions are hardening in the sport's labour dispute, as the spring-training lockout completes its second week.

The executive director of the Player Relations Committee, Chuck O'Connor, said clubs thought the latest spring training could start, without delaying the regular season, would be on or about March 12.

"We have worked on the idea of generally three weeks," O'Connor said. "I'm not aware that we have precisely set a date."

The union chief, Donald Fehr, still in Phoenix after a meeting of the players' executive board, said he had only minor contact with management on Wednesday, and said the next move was up to the owners. He was scheduled to brief players in Los Angeles yesterday and in Tampa, Florida.

## TODAY'S FIXTURES

7.30 unless stated  
FOOTBALL  
Barclays League  
Third division  
Cardiff v Shrewsbury

Fourth division  
Stockport v Colchester

OWENSHIPS PAPERS COMBINATION  
Norwich v Ipswich

RUGBY UNION  
7.30 unless stated  
CLUB MATCHES: Abergavenny v Newport, Hereford v Shrewsbury, Bala v Pwllheli, Ruthin v Llanelli, Cross Keys v Cheltenham; Monmouth v Cardiff (7.30); Northampton v Gloucester (7.30); Penrith v Redruth; Pontypridd v Bridgend; Pontypridd v Bristol.

UNIVERSITIES MATCH: Universities of Wales v University of Scotland (Newbridge 7.15).

RUGBY LEAGUE  
SLALOM LAGER ALLIANCE CUP: Queen's Park v Warrington, Hull v Bradford; Hull v Bradford.

FIRST DIVISION: Castleford v Swinton; Wigan v Leeds.

OTHER SPORT  
BADMINTON: Puma Survey champion (Wimbledon).

ida, today. Talks have reached stalemate over eligibility for salary arbitration. The union wants it rolled back to two years' service while management insists that it remain at three years. Details broke off on Monday.

The commissioner, Fay Vincent, said he had spent last weekend attempting to find a compromise, adding: "If the union said it would not move off its demand for a rollback to two years."

O'Connor said there has probably been a lack of communication. He said: "I think that when owners read a headline that 'we won't concede', they say: 'If they won't concede, we won't concede.'

"When you say, 'We won't compromise' or 'We won't concede' or 'It has to be our way,' you have to expect the reaction from the other side has to be just as hard."

Britain will still field a team of 46, their largest for the

quality of the squad.

ICL HOCKEY: Scunthorpe 10-11.45am; International coverage.

FORD 50 REPORT: Eurosport 9-10pm; International coverage.

FOOTBALL: Scunthorpe 10-11.45am; International coverage.

ICE SKATING: Scunthorpe 8.45-10am; Eurosport 5pm; Highlights of the United States championships.

CYCLING: Eurosport 10-11pm; Highlights of The Wilemen.

EUROSPORT MENU: Eurosport 8.30pm.

FOOTBALL: Scunthorpe 10-11.45am; International coverage.

ICE SKATING: Scunthorpe 8.45-10am; Eurosport 5pm; Highlights of the United States championships.

MOTOR SPORT: Eurosport 10-11.30pm; Eurosport 2.30-3am; Highlights of the Isle of Man TT.

POWER SPORTS: Eurosport 9-10pm; Eurosport 2.30-3am; Highlights of the Isle of Man TT.

YACHTING: Scunthorpe 4-5pm; Highlights of the 12 Metre Challenge from Sydney.

**New golf venue**  
There will be a new venue for the final of the Hennessy Coognac Club's golf championship. It will take place at Castleford, Isle of Man, from September 10 to 12. Teams will qualify from 16 regional finals.

**View from the observatory of college sporting phenomena**

**HUGH ROUTLEDGE**

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**SPORT**

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**THE TIMES FRIDAY MARCH 2 1990**

**SPORT**

RUGBY UNION: QUIET FARMER STEPS UP FROM THE NEATH SCHOOL TO GRADUATE ON THE INTERNATIONAL STAGE BUT REMAINS TRUE TO PEMBROKESHIRE ROOTS

**Relief for Irish as injury jinx relents**

By George Ace

Ken Reid, the Ireland team manager, was relieved yesterday when his men came through their second training session in two days unscathed.

"The way things have been going this season, that must be a bonus," he said. Since the match against New Zealand last November, injuries have taken their toll on Donal Lenihan, the captain, Michael Kiernan, Jimmy McCoy and Steve Smith.

For the game in Paris tomorrow, McCoy, Smith and Brendan Mallin are unavailable, and Philip Matthews and John McDonald have withdrawn. Michael O'Dowd, from a team and McDonald from the team, have picked up in the final 10 minutes of a training session on Sunday.

"One thing we can be grateful for is our four-match close-season tour of North America," Reid said. "With only a few exceptions, all of the team in action against France were on that trip. They know the score, and despite our many setbacks, morale is extremely high."

"France are no great shakes this season and the two hammerings handed out by England and Scotland will have done their morale no good."

Lenihan thinks the first 20 minutes will be crucial, while Jimmy Davidson, the coach, is wary of the last 20. Most observers believe that the middle 40 might be a little tricky, too, so far as the Irish are concerned.

# Williams earns his reward for standing up to strain

By Gerald Davies

Brian Williams, who plays his first game for Wales at loose-head prop tomorrow, lives in the sticks, as they say, in what was once Pembrokeshire but has now been absorbed by the legislators into the amorphous Dyfed.

"But really I didn't want to play," he said. "So I played truant instead. I preferred to be getting on with the farming chores. I missed the rugby purposely and did the mucking-out instead. Then the authorities found out and I was forced back to play again."

He went to Narberth Youth with what seemed to be the same reluctance and played in the second row. Then, he graduated to the first team. When a prop was injured, he moved to fill his place and stayed there. He played for Pembrokeshire against Japan in 1983 and had a good game in front of the new men at Neath, Ron Waldron and Brian Thomas. These two returned to see him play against the South Glamorgan Institute at Tenby. They tried, there and then, to persuade him to join Neath. Williams did not want to travel, he said. And he hung on to that line until his brother persuaded him to change it. He went.

Williams travels at least twice a week, on Tuesdays and Thursdays, along the narrow roads and sunken lanes of these parts to train with the team of the moment, Neath. He does not mind the training, it is the travelling that takes its toll. He can take the physical side of things, it is the tedium of the car journey that is so wearying. But he does it nowadays because he believes it is worth it.

It was not always so. Williams had been a reluctant rugby player. He did not play at school although there was

plenty of rugby in his family; his brother played for the Welsh schools. It was not until he got to Gelli Aur (Golden Grove) Agricultural College in the heart of the Towy Valley that he had his arm twisted to play on free Thursday afternoons.

And you stayed? "Yes," he said. "There were four other farmers in the squad. And that made me feel at home."

Neath, who were by now

seriously on the move, had been casting their net widely for recruits and moving into territory, like Pembrokeshire, which hitherto had been Lanelli's preserve.

Williams farms 60 acres of a handsome corner of the world which others from elsewhere seem increasingly to fancy, too, but who seem careless of the culture and the language that is inseparable from the land. He is sensitive to the breaking up of the essential Welshness of the "fillit swar" - the familiar patch - the square mile, as it were, of a close community. For the moment, at least, to be overheard hereabouts talking in anything but Welsh would be strange indeed.

At 6ft 1in and, astonishingly, only 13st 10lb, Williams does not conform to the modern idea of a prop. But to Neath he does. They do not want middleweight scrummers. They want mobile players who contribute elsewhere. And to Williams it simply does not matter at all. "Quick channel for the ball is the Neath way, and then an extra man in the running. That's the way the club want it is worth it.

It

is

# Island Set looks booked for encore

By Mandarin (Michael Phillips)

Champion Hurdle hope Island Set can draw further attention to his each-way prospects at Cheltenham in 11 days time by winning the White Rabbit Hurdle at Haydock Park again this afternoon.

After beating his solitary rival, Old Dundalk, in the corresponding race 12 months ago, the Kevin Morgan-trained horse then went on to Prestbury Park where he split Sondrio and Cruising Altitude in the finish for the Waterford Crystal Supreme Novices' Hurdle.

Interestingly, he again had Cruising Altitude behind at Wincanton eight days ago when they were both beaten by Kribensis in the Kingwell Hurdle.

The reason for this relatively swift reappearance is the fact that still being an entire Island Set is notoriously hard to get fit, just as he was when trained on the Flat by Luca Cumanu.

Island Set's first race this season was in Ireland on February 10 when he finished only fifth in the Wessell Cable Champion Hurdle, 39 lengths behind the winner, Nomadic Way.

If he has improved even half as much since Wincanton as he did between those races, the outcome of today's race

should be a formality with Milford Quay and Saypare filling the minor places.

With the National Hunt Festival in mind, it will also be interesting to see how Bitter Buck (2.15) and Rifle Range (4.15) perform.

If Bitter Buck and Releaser both contest the Waterford Crystal Supreme Novices' Hurdle they will meet at level weights.

Improvement that Releaser had at Nottingham first time out over hurdles (she easily accounted for yesterday's Ludlow winner Dwdame), she should still not manage to give 6lb to a mare of Bitter Buck's calibre now.

Having finished a close second to Sondrio and Riverhead already, Bitter Buck rates a nap.

Rifle Range, who missed a race at Nottingham last month because he knocked a splint, will now have his warm-up for the Sun Alliance Novices' Chase in the Tweedie Dun Novices' Chase. Having jumped successfully around Haydock already, it should be a perfect preparation.

Now that The Leggett has been penalised for winning at Stratford last Saturday, the Carpenter Handicap Chase can go to General Chandos, who seems to have taken on a new lease of life since return-

ing home to Scotland after a spell with Tony Balding at Wyfield where he failed to fulfil his potential.

At Newbury, that gifted but infuriating character Vodkatini has an excellent chance of winning the Arkle Trophy Handicap Chase.

Both Knockbrack and Bendsicks are more than a stone out of the handicap, while Mr Key took a heavy fall first time out on this same course in November.

Provided that he starts, Vodkatini should only have to run as well as he did on the same Berkshire track first time out to win. On that occasion he was runner-up to the subsequent Mackeson Gold Cup winner Joint Sovereignty, beaten only 1½ lengths, and that after a mistake at the last fence which lost him his impetus.

Having spreadeagled a similar field a week ago at Kempton, where he won by 15 lengths, Lyphoeirc should not be troubled by his penalty in the Whatcombe Novices' Handicap Hurdle.

Finally, Rodden Brook can draw attention to his chance of winning the Christie's Foxhunters' Chase at Cheltenham by outstaying Hand Over, Dromore Castle and Mrs Giddy in the Soapey Sponge Hunters Chase.

## NEWBURY

Selections  
By Mandarin

2.00 Go West. 3.30 Santella Bobkes. 4.00 Rodden Brook. 4.30 Lyphoeirc.  
2.30 Question Of Degree. 3.00 Vodkatini.

By Michael Seely.  
3.30 POPESWOOD (nap). 4.30 Lyphoeirc.  
Brian Beal's selection: 4.00 Rodden Brook.

### Going: heavy (soft straight)

1.0 ARDINTON NOVICES CHASE (£3,617: 2m 160yd) (12 runners)

101 55014 DEERSHIRE SPONGE 6 (Mrs L Turner) T Thomas 7-11-8. 72  
102 DU2-10 DEVILS ELBOW 55 (F Hinch) P O'Leary 7-11-8. A Adams  
103 DU2-10 GO WEST 52 (F Hinch) Mrs J O'Leary 7-11-8. G McCourt  
104 DU2-10 HAMMERSMITH 52 (F Hinch) P O'Leary 7-11-8. G McCourt  
105 DU2-10 LIMBURY LAKE 23 (H Heester) G Jofford 7-11-8. R Rose  
106 DU2-10 MASTER COMEDY 11 (F Jell) J Wilkinson 7-11-8. M Stevens  
107 DU2-10 NEVER LEARN (Pyle Bros Ltd) B Stevens 7-11-8. S Hodges  
108 DU2-10 PALMERSTON ROYAL 21 (F Hinch) P O'Leary 7-11-8. G Moore  
109 DU2-10 PLASTIC SPACELAGE 21 (Plastic Spaceage) J Old 7-11-8. S McLean  
110 DU2-10 RUMBLE 21 (F Hinch) P O'Leary 7-11-8. S McLean  
111 DU2-10 WILTSHIRE TEQUAN 21 (F Hinch) P O'Leary 7-11-8. S McLean  
112 DU2-10 WREBBIN 11 (Mrs J Crockett) D Ellsworth 7-11-8. B Powell  
BETTING: 5-4 Go West, 5-2 The Putney Lark, 6-1 Master Comedy, 10-1 Lustley Lake, Wiltshire Yeoman, 14-1 Plastic Spaceage, 20-1 others.

1985: HYDRO 9-11 K Moony (F Jell) F Watson 8 mn

1.0 FORM FOCUS DEVILS' ELBOW (soft) makes chasing debut

Best Move About 14 in a novice handicap hurdle at Warwick (21m, good to firm) on lenient terms. The 10-year-old gelding, 100-1, has been running in the 1000m novice race at Warwick (21m, soft) frequently. 41.2nd at Chepstow (2m, soft); previously 51.3rd or 15. Just go at the same course (8m, heavy). MASTER COMEDY 14.2nd of 15 to

Selection: Go West

1.0 HADDOCK HURDLE (4-7) 22.924: 2m 100yd) (8 runners)

201 50714 BARDHAGHAN 25 (F Hinch) N Henderson 11-10. J White  
202 45113 QUESTION OF DEGREE 25 (F Hinch) N Henderson 11-10. G McCourt  
203 61464 STAR OF THE GLEN 10 (F Hinch) J O'Leary 11-10. B Powell  
204 3728 SEA BUCK 14 (V.J.S.) (C Buckle) G Belling 11-10. S Hodges  
205 622 ROBBIE ROBERT 61 (H Heester) R Wilcock 11-10. R Denehy  
206 622 ROBBIE ROBERT 15 (A Goodwin) R Wilcock 10-10. M Bowley  
207 2009 RUMBLE 21 (F Hinch) P O'Leary 10-10. W Morris  
208 2109 RUMBLE 21 (F Hinch) P O'Leary 10-10. M Bowley  
209 6205 RUMBLE 21 (F Hinch) P O'Leary 10-10. M Bowley  
BETTING: 5-2 Question Of Degree, 4-1 Robbie Burns, 5-1 Badminton, 11-2 Sea Buck, 6-1 Star Of The Glen, 8-1 Lustley Lake, 10-10 others.

1985: SANTELLA BOBBES 4-17-11 M Parrett 4-11-10 G Harwood

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# Reverse route to officially sanctioned tour

Call the last few cricket tours of South Africa what you will — rebel, unapproved, unethical, unacceptable or wholly unacceptable — they have been well intentioned and undertaken by decent men. The most recent of them was, in the event, misconceived; the next, whenever it is, could be an occasion for people not to protest but to celebrate.

In view of the changes in South Africa, particularly in the last month, it would make no sense whatever to attempt another tour without the explicit approval of the African National Congress (ANC) and its offshoot, the National Sports Congress (NSC). The South Africa Cricket Union (SACU) virtually accepted this when it entered into an agreement with the ANC which allowed the last four matches played by Mike Gatting's XI to proceed unopposed. The power of the ANC is now a fact of South African life and the SACU knows it.

There is not much doubt, I think, that the Gatting tour went ahead in

the end against the better judgement of its architect, Dr Ali Bacher, the SACU's managing director. Knowing that the ANC/NSC was intending to mount demonstrations on a scale not attempted on earlier tours, he considered a possible alternative whereby, in the first of the two seasons for which they were contracted, the Englishmen should spend their time coaching, mostly in the townships, provided, of course, that that was acceptable to them. Having thought in the first place that this was not a bad idea, the NSC rejected it. And when, on being asked, neither the South African Government nor the police advised Dr Bacher to hide his time, the tour was on.

Previous tours organized by the SACU since South Africa were removed from the International Cricket Conference (now the International Cricket Council) had been good for cricket in the country. With the proceeds, progress had been made towards developing the game in the townships. Dr Bacher's

great scheme for doing so had received world-wide publicity, almost all of it favourable. But such was the campaign to disrupt and denounce the Gatting tour that, whereas a year ago cricket had become a unifying influence, it was now a focal point for protest and, as such, divisive.

Only in Durban were more than a handful of non-white faces to be seen on the grounds. Many who would have liked to go dared not do so for fear of reprisals. In Johannesburg some blacks continued to come and play their multi-racial cricket in the weekend leagues, while others stayed away. In one of the Wanderers' sides, for example, the two from Soweto

never missed a match, but the one from Alexandra vanished into thin air. Their captain told me that he has a much better side when all three are playing.

So Dr Bacher is left with work to do in the townships to regain the confidence of those whose interests he has so much at heart — the young black would-be cricketers of South Africa. There must be a chance, even so, that his reverse of recent weeks will prove to have been a catalyst. As Dr Danie Craven seeks again to centralize the ruling bodies of rugby football in South Africa, and other sporting authorities do the same, so the SACU will see some kind of partnership with the NSC as the

only way forward, and because of this last tour a line of communication is now established, albeit an unreliable one.

To a large extent, though, what happens next has been taken out of the hands of the SACU. It depends upon apartheid being removed from the statute books, and that, if not imminent, could come sooner rather than later. The next cricket tour to be hosted by South Africa is more likely than for a long time to be officially sanctioned than unopposed. It is an exciting prospect and one for which, thanks to the optimism of the SACU, South Africa will be prepared.

Of the four one-day matches with which Gatting's side ended its tour, two were played on splendid new grounds — at Bloemfontein and Pretoria. Nor has Kingsmead in Durban been allowed to fall behind. Indeed, it can never have looked better than on the Sunday before last when there was a full house to anticipate the day when the cricket is for real. The Wanderers in

Johannesburg is about to be refurbished, and St George's Park, the Test ground in Port Elizabeth, already has been.

So far as Gatting and his players

are concerned, they are being vilified in the same way as the English side was sent to South Africa, a good deal more conspiratorially. In 1982. Again there are calls for the players to be banned from first-class cricket, and it is certainly of no help to anyone, least of all the England selectors, that for the next five years they will be occupying places in their county sides while ineligible to play for England.

To that extent they will have the

same unhelpful effect as if they were overseas players. However, the Test and County Cricket Board does not deal in retrospective legislation. Let us not forget, too, that eight years ago it was Graham Gooch who had done the unforgivable by captaining an English side in South Africa. And what is he today if not a favourite son?

— John Goodbody

Leader of Britain's physical education bodies yesterday expressed their anxiety that the Government may curtail their support for the new national curriculum.

As the controversy rumbles on over the role of sport and PE in state schools, Elizabeth Murdoch, one of the most experienced physical educators in the country, said that "some school hours for PE are being reduced now and that will be difficult to reverse".

Speaking on the chair of the British Council of Physical Education, she said: "Children's physical competence and health are too precious to be left at the bottom of the pile only to be given half-hearted support in the final curriculum.

"We need parents to support the PE profession in ensuring that each child has access to the essential aspect of their development through a fully developed programme at all stages."

Alan Gilburt, the general secretary of Physical Education Association, said: "I remain sceptical about what the Government is doing. There is no proper commitment to PE and PE and particularly sport is our culture."

He is concerned that time on PE will be "whittled away" with the introduction of the national curriculum, particularly in the fourth and fifth years of the secondary schools, when it is feared that the subject will increasingly suffer because of examination pressure.

The anxious mood of yesterday's conference on PE and the national curriculum at the Institute of Education at London University, which was attended by more than 200 teachers from the South East, is not surprising because in November the Government rejected key recommendations of the report it commissioned on sport and PE in state schools.

Members of the School Sport Forum, in particular, disappointed that the Government had not accepted that infant primary school teachers should receive at least 100 hours instruction in PE and also that teachers' hours should be reallocated to allow a full range of extra curricula activities.

The Government has pointed out that it had not accepted only six of the 32 recommendations and that PE will enjoy an established role in the national curriculum when it is implemented in September 1992 because it is one of the 10 subjects which are either core or foundation.

Yet Gilburt told the conference that the Government's attitude towards PE was "consistently like water". However, he himself was still enthusiastic about the place of the subject in schools.

He said that too many clumsy, fat and sensitive pupils were "turned off" by PE in schools. "It is not so much what we offer but how we offer it. A PE programme should be relevant to all pupils, not just the committed minority."

Gibburt said that it was important to lay the basis for pupils of a "physically active lifestyle" after they have left formal education. He stressed that it was not the PE teacher's role to be a coach.

## CRICKET

# Zimbabwe resistance fighters frustrate the English assault

From Richard Streeton, Harare

An England A attack, lacking David Lawrence, who had a strained calf muscle, was unable to overcome dour resistance by Zimbabwe B yesterday at the Harare South County Club as the three-day game ended in a draw. A gritty sixth-wicket stand of 114 in 49 overs between Hough and Brent saved the match for the home side. They finished 30 runs ahead, with four wickets left, when play ended with 11 overs remaining.

Five of the team expected to play were involved when Australia were beaten in the 1983 World Cup at Trent Bridge. Eight of them toured England with Zimbabwe in 1985. Brent's late inclusion would give Zimbabwe a much-needed additional bowler.

Hough and Brent attempted five further no-balls during the five overs he managed and there was plenty of work for the three English spinners, who did not always have the rub of the green.

Zimbabwean umpires seem reluctant to give leg-before decisions whoever is batting. They also find it hard to gauge bat-and-pad decisions when

there is a chance that both men will be asked to join the Zimbabwean party announced earlier in the day for the first of what locally is described as unofficial Tests. Certainly Grant Flower, aged 19, is among the 13 players earmarked to experience international atmosphere and Lock has been picked as net bowler.

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FOOTBALL: FIFA PRESIDENT PROPOSES REVOLUTIONARY AND LUCRATIVE PLAN TO SPLIT MATCHES INTO FOUR QUARTERS

# Havelange champions a new cause

By Stuart Jones  
Football Correspondent

João Havelange, the president of FIFA, has left his powerful voice to a revolutionary and potentially lucrative proposal which would change the face of football. If he has his way, matches would be divided not into two halves of 45 minutes but into four quarters of 25 minutes.

The idea has been kicked around before, initially 15 years ago, but only now is a figure as influential as Havelange prepared to bring it into play. Yet he must have on his side his own notoriously inflexible governing body if the rules are to be altered.

In opening the debate, Havelange made no attempt to disguise the reason behind his apparent conversion. It is the finance to be found in television advertising. He believes that football can, and should, be enriched even more extravagantly by companies who are willing to pay to

promote their products. Although players already resemble advertisements on the run, pitches have long been enclosed within hoardings, and competitions invariably bear the names of sponsors, Havelange is eager to expand the market place. Why not, he argues, increase the selling space?

The natural breaks in the action would be doubled and so, presumably, would be the money that is generated. The ancient game, through the use of cosmetic surgery, would become, especially to television viewers, more like comparatively modern sports such as American Football and baseball, which might have been designed for advertisers.

"Football is extremely professional," Havelange says. "As such, it should seek all manners of increasing revenues. It is important for the growth of the game." In that case, why stop at four quarters? Why

not split matches into nine segments each of 10 minutes, and at least preserve the traditional duration of 1½ hours?

Havelange suggests that "with the evolution of time, experience and necessity, it would be worth studying" his proposal. It will first be discussed by the FIFA rules committee, and must subsequently be accepted by international board of FIFA before it could be put into operation in experimental form.

If it is ever introduced, initially in a limited number of matches, it will be analysed by coaches, doctors and journalists. Only then could it be brought in at the highest professional level.

Havelange optimistically foresees it being used during the World Cup finals in 1994. Significantly, they are to be staged in the United States, where television dictates the timing of sport. Noting that no fewer than 5,500 representatives of the media

have been accredited for the tournament in Italy this summer, Havelange appreciates that "the media's needs have to be taken into account when considering the future".

American television companies are believed to have told Havelange that, unless the changes are made, it will be almost impossible to assure wide television coverage in 1994. With next to no viewers, advertising income would be almost zero – something that would cost FIFA millions of dollars in lost revenue.

In the past, though, not all of FIFA's decisions have turned out to be in the best interests of the game. For instance, when the Football Association attempted laudably to eradicate the so-called "professional" foul, almost a decade ago, the scheme was officially rejected.

That was nonsensical. No offence incenses players and spectators more than the sight of a defender, who has been beaten either for pace or by guile, pursuing an opponent and deliberately bringing him down. The habit is deplored even on the Continent, but the punishment, a mere booking, remains ludicrously lenient.

As he relaxes on holiday in a coastal resort to the south of Rio de Janeiro, Havelange might spend his time more profitably in consideration of more productive measures to improve the health of the sport over which he presides. It is not as if the image of the game is beyond improvement.

For example, recent internationals featuring four of the World Cup favourites have been either tediously dull – the Netherlands against Brazil, and against Italy – or inexcusably ugly – Italy against Argentina. No amount of artificial decoration would have transformed those products into anything like good advertisements for the game.

## Kemp is handed the task of assuring Plymouth's survival

By Dennis Signy

David Kemp, who succeeded Don Howe as coach at Wimbledon this season, was yesterday appointed manager of Plymouth Argyle, one of his former clubs, in succession to Ken Brown, who was dismissed three weeks ago.

The Argyle directors, who put John Gregory, the former Portsmouth manager, in temporary charge when Brown was dismissed last month, moved for Kemp, aged 37, to try and halt a slide with their side in twentieth position in the second division, one point off a relegation place.

Kemp, a prolific goalscorer with Crystal Palace, Portsmouth, Carlisle and Plymouth with whom he spent two seasons as a player 10 years ago, said: "I will miss Wimbledon and am sad to leave. But I have always wanted to be my own man. I think I have my own style."

A former England under-23 representative player, Kemp also played for Seattle and Oklahoma in the United

States before gaining managerial experience in Sweden. Dave Bassett, the former Wimbledon manager, took him to Plough Lane as youth team coach in 1986. He succeeded Don Howe as first team coach last year.

Kemp's arrival at Home Park obviously raises a question mark over the future of Gregory with whom he will liaise before selecting the side for the home match against Sunderland tomorrow. Plymouth will be looking to end a run of 14 games without a win.

Wimbledon have yet to name a successor to Kemp.

• Luton Town's attempt to sign the Israeli forward, Ronny Rosenthal, took on new urgency yesterday when they discovered that another international would be out of action because of a second cartilage operation.

The Dane, Lars Elstrup, went into hospital for treatment, two months after his first cartilage operation. His knee injury flared up again in

training last week. Luton have been negotiating for a week to sign Rosenthal, aged 26, who has won 31 caps for Israel. Standard Liege, of Belgium, are willing to let him go because they have too many foreigners in their squad. "I think we are close to getting an agreement," said the Luton manager, Jim Ryan, "Ronny wants to play for us but the deal is a bit complicated."

• The Football League yesterday announced dates for two live television matches. Tottenham Hotspur will meet Liverpool at White Hart Lane on March 21 (ko 8.05) and Everton will play Nottingham Forest on April 4 (ko 8.05).

Everton's first division match at Manchester United's has been rearranged for March 14 (8.0), subject to no FA Cup replay being necessary.

Barnsley's FA Cup fifth round second replay against Sheffield United, twice postponed this week, has been rearranged for next Monday.

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## TOMORROW'S SPORT

The facts, the figures and the expert analyses of the great sporting events of the weekend

- Can Scotland keep on course for the grand slam of rugby union?
- Can Lloyd Honeyghan regain the world welterweight championship from Mark Breland?
- Can Britain dominate the European indoor athletics championships?

# The champagne cricketers of England

From Alan Lee  
Cricket Correspondent  
Kingston, Jamaica

English cricket has waited in hope, but never in confidence, for a day such as this. Two minutes after midday, on a date that will be ingrained on many an astonished mind, West Indies were vanquished by nine wickets on the ground where, for too many years, they have been awesomely invincible.

The margin of victory was the same as when England last won in Kingston in 1954. But things were different then: no one was surprised. This morning, even among the England players who wake with champagne heads, there will be a moment when they wonder, fearfully, if it really did happen.

Graham Gooch, nothing if not a realist, can reassure them. Captain at last, after one cancelled tour and one open sub, he has mocked those who doubted his ability to inspire. One Test in a long tour does not make everything right, and goodness knows there was much that was wrong, but a striking facet of this remarkable match has been the faith which he already commands from his players.

If there was a sadness yesterday, it came when Gooch turned Ian Bishop to short square leg and was caught, six runs short of the victory target of 41. It would have been more appropriate if he had hit the winning runs himself. Ten minutes later, any fleeting regret was forgotten as Wayne Larkins, whose inclusion he demanded, took the single which meant so much.

The old deadpan misery which many thought Gooch to be never did exist beneath the surface. But now, in a rare public show of emotion, his face wore an ecstatic grin. "I have," he explained, "waited a long time for this. In 10 years against the West Indies I have never been in a winning position. It is a sweet moment, a great day."

"I was brought up under Keith Fletcher at Essex to go on the field believing you can win each day. I have tried to instill that in all the young lads in our team and I am so pleased for them now. A lot of people said the only result there could be was 5-0. We have proved them wrong."

"We had to concentrate on the things we do well. We have achieved that in one game and the West Indies know they are in a contest. We are sure to have some lows ahead of us but what I can tell you is that we will never give up."

As dozens of bottles of champagne flowed around the noisy England dressing-room, a rare ceremony was being enacted just down the corridor. Viv Richards was acknowledging a total, overwhelming defeat. He could find no excuses, nor, to his credit, did he try. He did, however, issue a steely-eyed warning.

"I honestly believe we can still win this series," he said. "In fact, I am positive. We just



Smiles all round: Malcolm, Fraser, Gooch, the captain, Lamb, his vice-captain, and Small celebrate in Kingston yesterday after England's first Test win overseas since 1986 and their first over West Indies for 16 years

### SCOREBOARD FROM SABINA PARK

WEST INDIES					
First Innings 164 (A R C Fraser 5 for 28). Second Innings					
C G Greenidge c Hussain b Malcolm	36	6	143	57	57
D L Haynes 5 Malcolm	14	1	34	22	22
R B Richardson b Fraser	42	1	34	22	22
G Bapena c Gooch b Small	64	9	277	135	135
L Hooper c Larkins b Small	8	1	34	19	19
T V A Richards b Malcolm	37	5	110	51	51
M D Marshall not out	15	3	35	13	13
I R Bishop c Gooch b Small	8	1	32	11	11
G C Walsh b Small	3	1	5	5	5
B P Patterson run out	0	1	5	11	11
Extras (b 14, lb 10, w 1, nb 1)	25				
Total (72.3 overs)	240				
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-26, 2-69, 3-87, 4-112, 5-192, 6-222, 7-227, 8-227, 9-237					
BOWLING: Small 22-6-58-4; Malcolm 21-3-27-4 (1w); Capel 15-1-60-0; Fraser 14-5-31-1 (2b).					

ENGLAND					
First Innings 364 (A J Lamb 132; R A Smith 57; C A Walsh 5 for 68). Second Innings					
G A Gooch c Greenidge b Bishop	8	4	78	36	36
W Larkins not out	29	3	69	60	60
A J Stewart not out	0	1	9	6	6
Extras (b 1, lb 0, nb 3)	4				
Total (1 wkt, 16.3 overs)	41				
A J Lamb, R A Smith, N Hussain, D J Capel, T R C Russell, G C Small, A R C Fraser and D E Malcolm did not bat.					
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-35.					
BOWLING: Patterson 3-1-1-0 (1nb); Bishop 7.3-2-17-1; Walsh 6-0-12-0 (3nb).					

needed a kick up the backside. Like the famous Muhammad Ali, "we shall return". England played magnificently well but we are not like other teams whose selectors panic after losing. We will take our hiding and learn from it."

It had been a fitful, nervous night for the English. Wednesday's washout was only the fifth full day's Test cricket lost on this ground in 60 years. Two of these were the eighth and ninth days of the ostensibly timeless Test of 1930 when Andrew Sandham scored 325 and Les Ames, one of this week's cricketing departed, 149 not out. But even that game finished drawn — there was no comfort to be had from history.

Gooch seldom sleeps late, the legacy of three young daughters back home in Brentwood, but yesterday he was driven from his bed even earlier, adrenaline pumping, for an anxious peep through the curtains. He liked what he saw. The sun beat down from a cloudless sky. Justice was to be done.

Micky Stewart's insomnia drove him to Sabina Park shortly after 7am to check on conditions. His captain, then, was breakfasting before a lengthy, impatient vigil in the

**FA Cup as memorial**  
The Football Association is understood to be on the point of giving the FA Cup to the City of Liverpool at the request of the Hillsborough Families Support Group.

The trophy would be seen as a lasting memorial to the 95 supporters who lost their lives at Sheffield Wednesday's ground before the FA Cup semi-final between Liverpool and Nottingham Forest last season.

**In disgrace**  
Mark Rowe, a US national champion on four occasions at a distance between 400 metres and 600 yards, has been suspended from athletics for two years after testing positive for the illegal substance methyl testosterone. The Athletics Congress announced yesterday.

hotel lobby, headphones plugged into Phil Collins, his mind plugged into the proudest day of his life.

Once assembled at the ground, the England players peered at the crucial wet area on which the covers had leaked with the curiosity of antique dealers inspecting a fake. It was still worryingly damp but the umpires, having taken criticism for not exhorting the ground staff to greater efforts on Wednesday, were in no doubt that play must start on time.

And so, after copious spreading of sawdust, the historic day began. Barely 500 people were here to see it. Most were English, including three who were present on the only other occasion England have won on this ground, 36 years ago — Len Hutton and Godfrey Evans, who played, and Reg Hayter, who reported the game.

West Indies were beaten again here a year later, by Australia, but not for nothing do they consider this to be their lucky ground. This was to be their first defeat here in 35 years and Gooch, who regarded himself as a political prisoner in these islands when England last toured, was the gloriously improbable technician of this gloriously improbable result.

The ninth West Indian wicket, the one England needed to calm them, came with the fourteenth ball of the day. Walsh's off stump was flattened by the perfect ball from Gladstone Small, to my mind the bowler of the match. Later, deliriously happy, Small explained: "The captain had said to be patient — just make them work for the runs and they will get themselves out. It was good advice."

To add a farcical touch to the West Indian demise, Patterson then ran himself out, taking a single to Capel at midwicket.

The rest was a matter of time. England were anxious to finish the job before lunch and managed it with three balls to spare. Larkins was lordly, hitting Patterson and Bishop over the top to the pavilion boundary. When the great moment came he threw his arms skywards. At 36, and without a Test cap for nine years, this was some comeback.

Over the last three years,

Kingston

There can scarcely be a starker contrast than in the comparative moods of the England side now in Jamaica and that of the touring party here four years ago. The side that I led to the Caribbean in 1986 arrived full of optimism, based on a successful Ashes series the previous summer, which had given us all the confidence to believe that we would compete on relatively equal terms and that we might even sneak a victory somewhere. As it turned out, the only victory we achieved was in a one-day international in Trinidad, largely thanks to an outstanding hundred from the present captain, Graham Gooch.

Instead of leaving the Caribbean with our reputations further enhanced, the side slipped further and further back as the tour progressed, and I soon paid the penalty in the following summer when the captaincy was transferred to me.

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Over the last three years,

David Gower

The former England captain comments on the first Test match in Jamaica

to the meek hands of Mike Gatting.

On reflection, the mauling had been done here in Kingston, as much by a fiery, unpredictable pitch as by the use to which it was put by the West Indies pace battery. Psychologically it was a blow from which we never recovered, and even when we finally found a consistent and lasting surface on which to bat in Antigua we were unable to prevent the West Indies "blackwash". In the words of the popular calypso of the time, the ship had well and truly sunk.

How different it is thus far

ENGLAND'S 16-YEAR RECORD OF DEFEAT

By Richard Lockwood

Until yesterday, England had not beaten West Indies in a Test match for 16 years, when they won the final Test of the 1973-74 series at Port of Spain, Trinidad, to claim a 1-1 draw in the series. Then they gained a 26 run victory, Tony Greig returning match figures of 13 for 156 and Geoff Boycott contributing scores of 99 and 112.

Since then the two sides have played 29 Test matches, West Indies winning 20 with nine drawn. In the last three series (1984, 1985-86 and 1988) West Indies had won 14 out of 15 matches, with England gaining a solitary draw at Trent Bridge in 1988.

England had won only one of their 10 Tests at Sabina Park, Kingston, beating West Indies by nine wickets in 1953-54; West Indies had won four times and five matches had been drawn.

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**Sound foundations**  
Ted Dexter, the chairman of the selectors, quickly indicated where he felt the basis lay for England's success in Jamaica.

"All Micky Stewart's preparation, planning, training and coaching around the country and at Lilleshall in January

in the new decade. Last year the Australians routed us in England, and public expectations of this England side were low, though that has meant precious little to Gooch, Micky Stewart and the rest of the team, who have prepared thoroughly for this tour. Indeed the unprofessional cricket in this game has all been played by the West Indians, whose batting displays in both innings gave their bowlers no leeway to redress the balance, as had happened so often in the past.

As a result all the celebrations have been England's. Champagne is available in Kingston and I have tried to do my bit by having the Bollinger flown in from Barbados, but the greatest benefit to England is that the hope that we would make one back over West Indies has now become reality. The resultant boost in the players' confidence is immeasurable and they are fully entitled to

savour the taste of victory as long as they are allowed.

From a cricketing point of view it is a shame that they have to fall back on another couple of one-day internationals, where professionalism dictates that standards must be maintained and victories sought and achieved. I would much rather have had England continuing to play what I call proper cricket to take their good work through to the second Test in Georgetown, Guyana.

Let us not become too over-confident at this very happy time for England. If we were in the opposition's shoes, we would be suffering from mighty wounded pride, which would make us all the more determined to resume normal service immediately. But England have fully deserved their success in Jamaica, and they will not be averse to the required hard work to continue the contest.

England v West Indies 1976-1980

1976 Trent Bridge Drawn  
1976 Lord's Drawn  
1976 Old Trafford Drawn  
1976 The Oval Drawn  
1976 Headingly Drawn

West Indies won series 3-0

1980-81 Port of Spain Drawn  
1980-81 Bridgetown Drawn  
1980-81 St John's Drawn  
1980-81 Kingston Drawn

West Indies won series 1-0

1984 Edgbaston Drawn  
1984 Lord's Drawn  
1984 Leeds Drawn  
1984 Old Trafford Drawn  
1984 The Oval Drawn

West Indies won series 2-0

1986-87 Port of Spain Drawn  
1986-87 Bridgetown Drawn  
1986-87 St John's Drawn  
1986-87 Kingston Drawn

West Indies won series 2-0

1988-89 Port of Spain Drawn  
1988-89 Bridgetown Drawn  
1988-89 St John's Drawn  
1988-89 Kingston Drawn

West Indies won series 5-0

1989-90 Lord's Drawn  
1989-90 Old Trafford Drawn  
1989-90 The Oval Drawn  
1989-90 Headingly Drawn

West Indies won series 4-0